

# **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Saturday, May 1, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

**+ CONNECT +**

**OPENING PRAISE: “Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

**Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now his brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love. Behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their burning eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

**INVOCATION:**

**L: Our worship begins the way our lives in the risen Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the  
Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES:**

**L: Christ is risen!**

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**L: Christ has risen from the dead.**

**C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

**L: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;**

**C: He has put all things under His feet.**

**L: We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;**

**C: Death no longer has dominion over. Alleluia!**

**L: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him,**

**C: And we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia!**

L: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

C: **They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**

L: 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

C: **There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."**

ALL: **He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"**

**RESPONSE: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

**Crown him the Lord of years, The potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, Ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou has died for me;**

**Thy praise and glory shall not fail Throughout eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,**

**Crown him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.**

**Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;**

**Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, For he is king of all.**

**CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

L: In our Gospel reading today, we will hear Jesus exhorting us to remain in Him. He tells us this will make us fruitful. And He will tell us that by bearing fruit we show our discipleship and bring glory to God. If we take some time to examine our fruit-bearing, we find that we fall short. Let's confess that now.

C: **Gracious God, we have not remained in you. We have put our energy and attention in all sorts of places they don't belong. And as a result, our lives have been far from fruitful. We need your forgiveness today, Lord. We need the assurance that the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus gives us the forgiveness of sins. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

P: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**SONG OF PRAISE: "This Is the Feast"**

**REFRAIN: This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign, Alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**Whose blood set us free to be people of God;**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,**

**And honor, blessing and glory are His. REFRAIN:**

**Sing with all the people of God**

**And join in the hymn of all creation;**

**"Blessing, honor, glory and might**

**Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen." REFRAIN:**

*("This Is the Feast" from "Services – The Holy Communion", copyright 1970 LCA, SELC, ALC, ELCC, LCMS, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **Lord Jesus, you tell us today that you are the vine and we are the branches and that you want us to abide in you and be fruitful. So engage us with yourself today, Jesus. Connect us in healthy ways to you, to your Word and to each other. Make us a fruitful people. Amen.**

## **GREETING TIME**

**+ NURTURE +**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**L:** The Word of the risen Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### **EPISTLE LESSON: I John 4:1-11**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**L:** The Word of the risen Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## **HOLY GOSPEL:**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 15.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

**L:** This is the Gospel of our risen Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **SONG OF THE DAY: "I Am the True Vine"**

**I am the true vine from above, And you My branches green;  
Abide in Me and in My love, Your good fruit shall be seen.  
Apart from Me no good thing comes, But in Me blossoms spring.**

**My Father's love for each branch cares, The goal a fruitful vine.  
Away the barren branch He pares, Each fruiting branch trims clean.  
Dwell in My Word and in My love, And you'll be always Mine.**

**Jesus, I pray you, live in me, So I may live in You.  
Your Spirit give that patiently, My Father's will I'll do;  
And bearing fruit that will endure, May Your disciple prove.**

**Help me to joy in things above, Help me desire Your ways.  
That I may bear the fruit that lasts, And glory give and praise.  
To Father, Son, and Spirit, one, Now and for all my days.**

**MESSAGE:** "Where Can I Find an APP for Abiding?" – Pastor Bill Hugo

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**+ EMPOWER +**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

F/G G7 C Am Em Dm/F

1. Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
 (2. Thine the) life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
 (3. Thine the) tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
 (4. Thine the) king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
 (5. Thine the) glo - ry in the night No more

2 G Dm Gsus G C Am Em Dm

lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head Thine the  
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree All the  
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee Thine the  
 won - der - ful sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise Then the  
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree Then the

4 Am Dsus D7 G G/F C/E F Dm Dm/F

break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the sto - ry Thine the  
 earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing Gone the  
 glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the sing - ing Then the  
 jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the sto - ry Then the  
 Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Cel - e -

6 G Dm<sup>6</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> F G7 C Am Em Am

har - vest then the cup Thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed  
 plead - ing gone the cry Gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was  
 end of all the war Thine the liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er -  
 wel - come to the least Then the won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy  
 bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly

8 Dm Gsus 1-4. C C/E Fmaj<sup>7</sup> F/G G<sup>7</sup> 5. C

up, lift - ed up. 2. Thine the  
 loss lift - ed high. 3. Thine the  
 more, ev - er - more. 4. Thine the  
 feast, at Thy feast. 5. Thine the  
 Thee, on - ly Thee.

("Thine the Amen" by Carl F. Schalk, copyright 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)

+ + +

Lay Minister: Jim Geslin