

**“I am
the
true
vine ...”**



John 15:1

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service Theme
THE LIVING LORD PRODUCES ACTIVE FAITH

Through faith, we are connected to Christ as a branch is connected to a grapevine. The result of being connected to Jesus is that we will now bear fruit. The fruit of a Christian is a life of love. Out of thanks for God's love, we now seek to love our fellow man by sharing God's message of love with him. As believers, we seek to show love not only in what we say but also in what we do.

Hymn

CW 168 With High Delight Let Us Unite

**1 With high delight Let us unite
In songs of sweet jubilation.
You pure in heart, Each take your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, he Is ris'n and sends
To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.**

**2 True God, he first From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Shall vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be Like victory O'er death and grave,"
Said he, who gave His life for us, life renewing.**

**3 Let praises ring; Give thanks and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall his love Give us above,
From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.**

Order of Service

Service of the Word (p.38)

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of
God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.
- C:** **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(CW p.39)

- M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C:** *(Sing)* **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(CW p.39)

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (Sing) Amen.

1st Lesson

Acts 4:32–37 (EHV)

In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity.

³²The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

³⁶Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Psalm
67 (CW p. 91)

Refrain:

**Let the people praise you, O God.
Let all the people praise you.**

**May God be gracious to us and bless us*
and make his face shine upon us;**

**may your ways be known on earth,*
your salvation among all nations.**

**May the nations be glad and sing for joy,*
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.**

Refrain

**Then the land will yield its harvest,*
and God, our God, will bless us.**

**God will bless us,*
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

1 John 3:18–24 (EHV)

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹⁸Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. ²²We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. ²³This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

Verse of the Day

(CW p.40)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

Alleluia. (John 15:5)

C: *(sing)* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8 (EHV)

Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

³“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

CW 342 Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness

**1 Amid the world's bleak wilderness
A vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself.**

**2 His love selected this terrain;
His vine with love he planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for him.**

**3 We are his branches, chosen, dear,
And though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care.**

**4 From him we draw the juice of life,
For him supply his winery
With fruit from which true joys derive.**

**5 Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
Your branch, with your rich life in me.**

Sermon Text & Theme

John 15:1–8 ... Remain in Christ

Apostles' Creed

(CW p.41)

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty.**

**From there 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.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for the Easter Season

God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.

Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.

Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and faithless. Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and the distressed.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to us all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(CW p.43)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* Amen.

Blessing

(CW p.44)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(Sing)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hymn

CW 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

**1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine!**

**2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity,
Love that found me—wondrous thought!—
Found me when I sought him not.**

**3 Only Jesus can impart
Comfort to a wounded heart:
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with
God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me.
All my wants to him are known;
All my sorrows are his own.
Safe with him in earthly strife,
I await the heav'nly life.**

**5 Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
By your Spirit and your word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.**

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

May 5 – Peter // May 12 - Barnabas

Guest Preacher – May 5th

Circuit Pastor Caleb Schulz will be preaching for us on Sunday, May 5th.

New Hymnal Launch – May 12th

The new hymnals are here and we hope to start using them on Sunday May 12th - after we get the audio set up for it.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (28) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship**

We (1) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (2) 10:30 am Longfield's Manor Devotion
6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (3) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship

Sa (4) *All Day* Planning Seminar at Abiding Word

**Su (5) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

We (8) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (9) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (10) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

**Su (12) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship**



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