

***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**May 1 & 2, 2021  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace  
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**

***OUR VISION***

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”**

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, / pilgrim through this barren land. / I am weak, but you are mighty; / hold me with your pow'rful hand. / Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, / feed me now and evermore, / feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain / where the healing waters flow; / let the fire and cloudy pillar / lead me all my journey through. / Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, / shield me with your mighty arm, / shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, / bid my anxious fears subside; / death of death and hell's destruction, / land me safe on Canaan's side. / Songs and praises, songs and praises, / I will raise forevermore, / I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt. Public Domain.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”**

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “I Will Rise”** ..... Ken Carnes

**THE READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"**

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! / Trumpets resounding in glorious light! / Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! / Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

**Refrain**

Jesus is risen and we shall arise: / Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center / telling the story to open our eyes; / breaking our bread, giving us glory: / Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. **Refrain**

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; / life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree; / heaven to earth, Christ to the people, / gift of the future now flowing to me. **Refrain**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926; (c) 1995 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying; Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, you 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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: “You Servants of God”**

You servants of God, your Master proclaim, / and publish abroad his wonderful name; / the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol; / his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Ascended on high, almighty to save; / yet still he is nigh, his presence we have. / The great congregation his triumph shall sing, / ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!

Salvation to God who sits on the throne! / Let all cry aloud and honor the Son. / The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, / fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right, / all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might, / all honor and blessing, with angels above, / and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Public Domain.

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Scripture Reader: Mike Blackburn

Hymn Vocalists: Ken Carnes, Nancy Newman, Cathy Pierce, Terry Pierce

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

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