



Christ Lutheran Church

May 2nd, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

HANDBELL PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Johann Cruger, arr. by Susan Berry & Janet Van Valey

PRAISE, ADORATION

R 286

Holy Ground

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,

and I know that there are an - gels all a - round.

Let us praise Je - sus now.

We are stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

Text: Geron Davis, b. 1960
Music: HOLY GROUND, Geron Davis
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy.

Amen.

WORD

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MUSIC

Bind Us Together

Refrain

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

1 There is on - ly one God.	There is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God.	You are the prom - ise di - vine.

There is on - ly one Bod - y;	that is why we can sing.
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . .	you are the glo - rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
Music: BIND US TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, b. 1946

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APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 to the dead.
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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Doug & Elsa Felten

OFFERING PRAYER

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 Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

+LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

As we join with the family of all believers in celebrating Holy Communion, we believe that Christ is present in this meal, and when we receive it, we receive God's grace, abundant love, and forgiveness. Everyone is welcome to take communion regardless of age, denomination or background.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and reveal to you God's grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
May the God of life
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

I'm Going on a Journey

1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My
head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;
it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It
real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's
been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.

3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll
keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A-long the way
I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

Text: Kenneth D. Larkin
Music: WET SAINTS, Edward V. Bonnemère, 1921–1996
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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**