



Holy Communion

Resurrection Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

*Resurrection is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

**Welcome to Worship
At Resurrection Lutheran Church**



Our HOLY PURPOSE

It is our holy purpose as Resurrection People to respond to God's grace by being instruments of transformation and love in our surrounding community. We are called to welcome ALL people, nurture them in faith, equip them for the shared work of ministry, and serve others that ALL may know God's love.

We welcome you to our community of faith. Many things are different from our usual during this time of pandemic precautions. We ask that you follow all precautions that we have put in place as we strive to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor and be mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

Children are welcome in church! God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to our whole community when the youngest of us are present. Sitting alongside of parents and other adults and learning to treasure times of worship together builds strong faith. We will re-open our nursery at some point in the future, but it is not safe for us to do so yet.

*We ask that after worship concludes that you not
congregate in the sanctuary or in the narthex. If you wish to
visit with other worship participants, please do so outside
of the building.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter
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This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

GATHERING

Prelude

Upon entering the sanctuary, we help to create a worshipful environment by keeping movement and noise to a minimum. The time may be used for prayer, pre-reading the scriptures or hymns for the day, or simply preparing the soul for an encounter with God.

Welcome and Greetings

Easter Proclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C **Amen.**

P We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

Greeting

The presiding minister and congregation greet each other.

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

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Assured of the Lord's pardon and peace, we stand joyfully in God's presence as today's vocalists sing these words of scripture from the book of Revelation that point to the great heavenly feast.

Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister "collects" the thoughts for the main theme of today's worship in this historic ecumenical prayer also called "the collect," appointed for this day.

P Let us pray. 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.

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

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.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

P The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

“Baptized and Set Free”

ELW 453

While we cannot sing as a congregation, we share these words on the screen for your reflection.

Nicene Creed

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

We gather our individual and communal intercessions and thanksgivings, remembering our connection to the universal church on earth and in heaven. During indicated times of silence, we may remember names in silence or speak them aloud in the assembly of God's people. After each "Hear us O, God." all may respond with "Your mercy is great."

The Peace

After the exchange of peace with the pastor and the online congregation, worshipers are invited to make a pandemic appropriate gesture of peace – a wave, "air hug," etc. – with each other.

MEAL

Holy Communion

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Abiding God, you planted the vineyard of creation,
and called your chosen people to be your vine, ...

And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your
unending praise.

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P Transforming God,
your Son took the ordinary substance of human flesh and bone; ...

“Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P Great is the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P Companionable God, you turn Word into flesh,
and your perfect love casts out our fear. ...

until we stand before you, with your whole creation,
and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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

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

The Lord's Table is open to all Christians. Adults and children who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing their arms across their chest. The flow for distribution is intended to ensure that nobody speaks or stands over the communion elements without a face covering. Allow the pastor to drop the bread into your outstretched hands. Help yourself to an individual cup of wine and then step into the open space to remove your mask and consume the bread and wine. Place your empty cup in the basket as you return to your seat. (WHITE grape juice is in the center of each tray.)

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Blessing

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

We are dismissed in joy and peace, exiting the door of the church as a "servant's entrance" into our work in the world.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

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Acknowledgements

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