



*“I am the
true vine,
and
my Father
is the
vine-grower”*

John 15:1

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May 2, 2021

Christ Lutheran Church
Christ Lutheran Mission Statement
As members of Christ Lutheran we - Gather in Worship,
Grow in God's Word, Serve in Jesus' name.
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Prelude: Jeff Iverson

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Song

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW # 379

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thought 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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Most merciful God, **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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Greeting

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: 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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an 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.)²⁷ So 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 worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now 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.”³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As 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?”³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When 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.⁴⁰ But 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.

Second 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.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.¹³ By 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.¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.¹⁶ 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.

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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ 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.²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Here ends the readings. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: The Holy Gospel according to St. John. *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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, we say: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

Pastor Katherine

Special Music

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

*Trevor Kirchoff
Accompanied by Jeff Iverson*

Prayers of Intercession: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

STEWARDING GOD’S GIFTS

We offer to God what is God’s own

Offering

[Please remember to send your much appreciated and needed weekly tithes and offerings.]

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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer: 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 of Communion

“Lamb Of God”

ELW # 146

Prayer after Communion: 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. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Quilting Mission

Vicky Harris

Blessing of the Quilts

Pastor Katherine

Announcements

Benediction

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. **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Shout to the Lord”

ELW # 821 (2 x)

Dismissal: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Jeff Iverson



A special thank you to all who helped assist with our worship service today:

Organist: Jeff Iverson

Lector: Louise Carlson

Cantor: Chris Davis

Audio/Video Tech: Scott Kuehn

Head Usher: Brad Hahn

Ushers: Vicky Harris and Dawn Peterson

Communion Assistant: Becky Olmstead

Special Music: Trevor Kirchoff with Jeff Iverson

Please lift these people up in prayers this week: Brent Lindemann (stepfather of Audrey Howell), LaDonna Oberlin, Dennis Pilger (cousin of Donna Senske), Kurt Landin, Cassandra DeCasas (daughter of Bill and Deb Heuer), Talyn Mellesmoen, daughter of Hannah Mellesmoen and granddaughter of Dave and Nancy Mellesmoen), Collin Gustafson, grandson of Marv and Gloria Gustafson), Julie Schrupp, Gary Metag, Charlotte Dittmer, Sandy Koeppen, (sister of Barb Jenneke), Linda Mullenbach, Stanley Butcher (brother of Deb Heuer), Mary Entinger, Brad Duenow, LuAnn Harms, Dennis Dittmer, Marlys Rehmann, Sandra Brenhaug, Dori Swedberg (mother of Katherine Grant), Lisa Style, Brian Mikolichek, Erik Murray (nephew and Godchild of Gloria Gustafson), Carol Carver, Brayden Gildea (a GSL 9th grader, son of Jim and Kari Gildea, and nephew of Shaun and Charity Gildea), Tom Rozeske (father of Tami Alsleben), Beau Brelje (GSL 4th grader), Marie Kliche (mother of Nancy Kliche, Gary Brown (friend of Joanne Chrast), and Eydie Knoll (sister of Millie Dreier).

Please pray for our deployed military people: Ryan Schrempp.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, May 2nd, In-person Worship Service with Holy Communion @ 9:00 a.m. – Quilt Sunday; listen to service in the parking lot @ FM 97.7; Adult Education begins @ 10:15 a.m. – in-person classes in the sanctuary or via Zoom.

Monday, May 3rd, Televised worship @ 3:00 p.m. on channel 10.

Tuesday, May 4th, In-person Men's Bible Study @ 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 5th, "Anticipating Sunday" Bible Study via Zoom @ 8:00 a.m.; Women's Bible Study at Grand Meadows @ 9:30 a.m., televised Worship Service @ 2:00 p.m. on Channel 10; Choir @ 6:00 p.m.; Highway 212 Ditch Clean-up, weather permitting, for all 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students; no Wednesday Evening Worship Service.

Thursday, May 6th, Worship with Holy Communion @ 10:30 a.m. @ Grand Meadows.

Friday, May 7th, Women's Bible Study via Zoom @ 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 8th,

Sunday, May 9th, In-person Worship Service with Holy Communion @ 9:00 a.m. – Noisy Pail for Common Cup (collecting through the month of May); listen to service in the parking lot @ FM 97.7; Adult Education @ 10:15 a.m. – in-person classes in the sanctuary or via Zoom.



Flowers Behind the Altar

The flowers behind the Altar are from Gloriann Wacker's funeral at Christ Lutheran on Monday, April 26th.

With Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Cheryl Howard, 62, of Hollandale, MN. Cheryl was a sister of Linda Mullenbach's. A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 1st at Faith Evangelical Free Church in Austin. Please keep Jeff, Linda, Jordan and Ronni in your prayers.



New Adult Education Sunday School Series Starts Today!



Dr. John Bergseng will be leading a new Adult Education Sunday School series – based on the book, "Making Sense of Scripture" by David Lose – **beginning this morning at 10:15 a.m.**

Classes for this seven-part series will be offered in-person and via Zoom. Handouts for the series are available in the entryway near the mailbox. Books are available for purchase in the office for \$14.89, but are not required to participate in the Sunday School classes. Contact Dr. Bergseng for more information about the series.

Christ Lutheran Quilters 2021



Thank you to the Christ Lutheran Quilters for the 96 quilts they completed this year along with the seven senior quilts for our high school graduates! The quilters met each Monday for one hour from January 11th through March 29th. Many hours of quilting were done at home by the ladies. Thank you for your donations of yarn and yard goods.

Ladies who worked on the quilts are Mary Ellen Bullert, Louise Carlson, Charlotte Dittmer, Betty Dahlke, Jan Giese, Gloria Gustafson, Connie Hanson, Darlene Hennessey, Judy Ide, Barb Lamp, Judy Larsen, Jane Larter, Kathy Remus, Elrena Scharpe, Dianne VonBerge, and Muriel Wavra.

Ladies who worked on the senior quilts are Jeanne Pagel, Vicky Harris, Mary Metag, and Mary Stoltenburg. Mary Metag sewed one quilt top. Jeanne Pagel sewed four quilt tops. Mary Stoltenburg and Jeanne Pagel put the quilt tops, fleece, and backs together on five quilts. Jeanne Pagel sewed the hems for five quilts for Jake Christianson, Hope Kosek, Hailey Overman, Maren Roepke, and Dawson Meyer. Vicky Harris sewed the quilt tops and put them together for Eli Kuehn and Alsaycia Hahn. Darlene Hennessey, Kathy Remus, Vicky Harris and Elrena Scharpe tied Eli and Alsaycia's senior quilts.

As you leave worship services today, PLEASE fold a quilt and carry it to the back of the church and put it on one of the pews to be picked up and taken to its destination!

Morning Bible Studies

- ✝ **Tuesday Morning In-person Men's Bible Study** – 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex.
- ✝ **Wednesday Morning "Anticipating Sunday" Bible Study** – 8:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- ✝ **Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study** – 9:30 a.m. at Grand Meadows.
- ✝ **Rachel Circle** – 9:00 a.m. meeting the second Thursday of each month.
- ✝ **Friday Morning Women's Bible Study** – 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.



Contact Pastor Katherine for more information about these groups. The lessons for this week will be Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; and John 15:9-17.

Women's Get-together on Wednesday, May 5th



Women of Christ Lutheran we have missed you! Join your women's planning team on **Wednesday, May 5th (backup rain day is Thursday, May 6th) at 10:00 in The Garden** (Columbarium) area of Christ Lutheran Church. No program, no speaker just conversation and fellowship. Bring your mask, a chair, and your own beverage. Individually-wrapped treats will be provided. Stay as long as you please. Call 320-510-1593 if you need a ride. We are happy to pick you up. Hope you can make it. Remember May 5th, mark your calendar.



Noisy Pail Offering for Common Cup on May 9th!

Missions will be holding a Noisy Pail offering for Common Cup on **Sunday, May 9th**. Paper money is welcome, too! If you will not be in church on the 9th, they will be collecting through the month of May.

Funding Request for Green Lake

In the past month, we became aware of a lack of funding for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Due to the pandemic related shut-down, GLLM has not had “guests” for summer camps or group retreats since March 16, 2020. This has resulted in a revenue loss of \$1.1 million. To reduce expenses to bare minimum, full time staff was laid off and the few remaining staff members accepted reduced hours and salaries. They need to begin preparing for summer camps this year, bringing back staff and hiring camp counselors. GLLM is dependent on donations to operate, as camper fees do not fully cover the actual cost of camp.



We are asking members of Christ Lutheran to help support this growth in faith mission work that benefits youth in our congregation and throughout our conference. Our goal is to raise at least \$3,000, or enough to cover the cost of at least one counselor for summer camp. For the past 5 years, they have hired an average of 45 counselors for a season. The average camper spends about 100 hours with a counselor during a week of camp.

Please consider supporting this effort. Checks/donations should be made out to Christ Lutheran Church specifying that the donation is for GLLM. Donations need to be in the church office by May 20, 2021.

CLC Mission Team: *Becky Olmstead, Karin Ramige, Nancy Dolezal
Cheryl McDougall, Dianne VonBerge*

Common Cup Needs your Coats



It's spring and time to pack away, or give away, your warm outerwear. Common Cup is collecting adult and children's coats/snow pants for their October distribution of warm coats to families in need.

You may drop off coats and snow pants in the CC box found under the stairs, inside the side parking lot door entrance. A box will be available for collection through the month of May. Help us keep families in need warm when the temperatures drop next fall. Only clean coats in good repair please. Your generosity is appreciated.