



I AM THE  
VINE,  
YOU  
ARE THE  
BRANCHES

JOHN 15:5

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*Prince of Peace*

# Dare to Live Transformed

*5th Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021*

*Holy Communion in place*

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

When Philip proclaimed the good news of Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, that man commands his chariot to stop so that he can go down to the water and be baptized. How has the testimony of the people in our lives and through the generations guided us into the good news that we are loved and blessed? What transformation is possible in us as we abide with God, the vine from which we find our sustenance?

### **Call to Worship:**

This is the call!

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Look around and see that you are not alone.

**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

**For we are called to live again!**

## **Greeting**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## **Prayer**

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation! You are the restorer of life, the conqueror of all that is death-dealing in our hearts and in this world. Come with us, dazzle us with your brilliance, move us to wakefulness –so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Time for Confession and Forgiveness**

We confess this day that we have been slow to join with Jesus in the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. ‘

In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession... *(a time of silence)*

Hear this good news!  
God has loved you from the very beginning.  
The invitation of Christ is never-ending:  
New life in Christ is yours right now.  
The Holy Spirit is transforming you and  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**Glory to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

### **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.

This we ask in your name.

**Amen.**

### **The Word Children's Moment**

#### **First Reading: Acts 8.26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Then 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.) <sup>27</sup>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 worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm 22.25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise  
in the great congregation;

**my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

**May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the LORD;

**and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.**

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
**and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

**and I shall live for him.**

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;

**future generations will be told about the Lord,**

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
**saying that he has done it.**

**Gospel Greeting** (*sing it out!*):

**Halle, halle, hallelu---jah! Halle, halle, hallelu---jah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelu---jah! Hallelujah, halle-lujah!**

## Gospel: John 15. 1-8

15”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!

*(Gospel response, sing it out!)*

**Halle, halle, hallelu---jah! Halle, halle, hallelu---jah!  
Halle, halle, hallelu---jah! Hallelujah, halle-lujah!**

## Message

**Hymn of the Day: “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”** 400 Herman Stuempfle  
Jr. b.1923; John Hughes, 1873-1932; CWM RHONDDA 87 87 877; Text copyright 2000 GIA Publications, Inc

**1.** God of tempest, God of whirlwind  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!

**2.** God of blazing, God of burning  
all that blocks your purpose purge!  
Through your church Christ’s living Body  
let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice  
kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!

**3.** God of earthquake, God of thunder  
Shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder,  
for earth’s healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us  
make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!

**4.** God of passion, God unsleeping  
stir in us love’s restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish,  
may we share your heart’s distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil  
claim us for your kingdom’s work,  
claim us for your kingdom’s work!

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

## The Peace Announcements

**Coming up-** Non-perishable food drive to support the pantry  
of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Edith Stein.



**Let's Celebrate Together**  
PRIDE season is quickly  
approaching! This year  
ReconcilingWorks is excited to  
offer a Virtual PRIDE for  
everyone. In mid-May we will  
be launching a webpage filled  
with weekly opportunities to  
engage with PRIDE events and  
support ReconcilingWorks.  
Amen to celebrating diversity!  
For more information about us  
visit  
<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/about>



As people of faith, it is critical your voice be heard in matters of justice for the Body of Christ. As you watch the news and wonder what to do in times of unrest due to horrific mistreatment, violence, and death of our black and brown siblings, we are called to take a stand.

For our Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partner, connect with your pastors, synod leaders, and local community to find out the ways you can provide care and support. As individuals, help show your support in the larger work happening for our BIPOC siblings through reparations for black leaders in the ELCA by [purchasing a shirt or sweatshirt](#) – all proceeds (so far \$2,500) going to the #66thSynod Endowment

## Prayers of the Church

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*(A brief moment of silence)*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

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

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.

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

You have loved us so that we can love other. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all *(especially)*.

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit *(especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before you.)*. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping.

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

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

## Holy Communion

We who are many are one body as we share this one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

*(We share in communion in place, during the meditation hymn)*

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

## Prayer

Life-giving God, Christ has died and Christ is risen! You have fed us with your word and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us out to share the gifts of Easter with all in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your weeping into dancing.

May Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Bless you, now and forever. **Amen!**

## Sending Hymn: "All Are Welcome" 641 Marty Haugen; Two Oaks 968687 10 and refrain

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**Refrain:** All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions rock of faith and vault of grace  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions: **Ref.**

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **Ref.**

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **Ref.**

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **Ref.**

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5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **Ref.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

**Thanks for joining us!**

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