



 *Palestine*
Lutheran Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All
1375 Highway 210
Huxley, IA 50124

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Pastor's Email: ericklimpel@gmail.com

Pastor's Office: 515-597-2620

Pastor's cell phone: 936-444-3895

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Secretary's Office: 515-597-2624

Church Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

Church Website: www.plchuxley.com

5th Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

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.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds
ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Ringling of the Bell and Prelude

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

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

ELW 379

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958; Music: French carol; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*GREETING

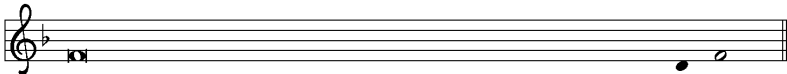
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.


*KYRIE



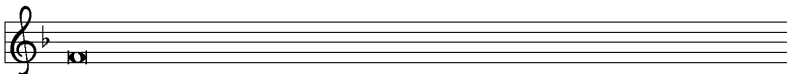
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



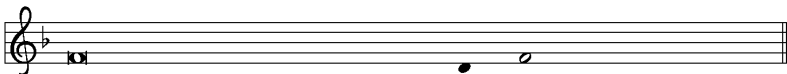
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



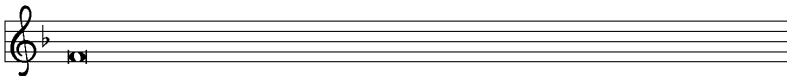
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



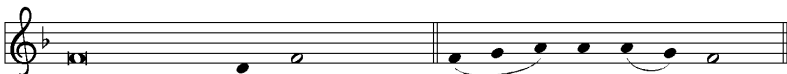
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.
Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

**I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear
the LORD.**

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your
hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

**all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall
kneel before the LORD.**

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

The holy gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – *Please stay in your seats/pews*

REFLECTION HYMN

ELW 744

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952; Music: Bob Kilpatrick; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
 in our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
 in your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
 in your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
 Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
 Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 629 (vs. 1, 2, 5)

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889; public domain.

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide,
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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**

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 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 have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life.

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 others. 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*):

Prayer Requests:	Tyler Anderson	Anita Brendeland
Joan Carson	Bev Echtenkamp	Dolores Hauge
Christa Hartsook	Phyl Hughes	Warren Johnson
Kevin Klingbeil	Alvina Larson	Ardell Lundgren
Merlin Lyon	Loree Ness	Roy Paradise
Deidre Qual	Karen Rew	Harold Rittgers
Shannon Tope	Sarah JoAnn Young	Phil Zeller

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. We especially pray for those that have gone before us:

Family & friends of: Angie Claude, Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Ralph Kalsem, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Jimmy Young, Darrell Rout, John Maier, Travis Ellis, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka, Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Kaytie Anderson, Harold Long, Debbie Bollmeyer, Linda Lantz, Hannah Tjernagel, Duane Taylor, Barb Larson, Jackie Greene
--

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.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

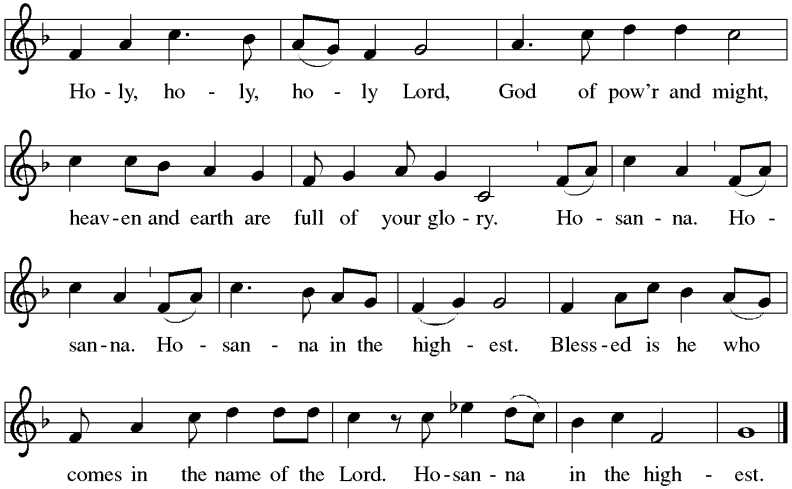
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Holy Communion Distribution for Today

- 1. Congregation will remain seated and commune from their seats using the prepackaged wafers and cups.***
- 2. Ushers, Musicians and Technology ministers will commune with the congregation from their seats together with the Pastor.***
- 3. Pastor will do a children's blessing while children remain in the pews with the help of parents.***
- 4. Please dispose of empty communion cups in trash after service.***

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.**

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

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Shout to the Lord"

ELW 821

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965; Music: Darlene Zschech; Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

Shout to the Lord

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you,
All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.
My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;
let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise
to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the
sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.
Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

Text and music © 1995 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP),

o/v Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Bell
Postlude

For streaming and printing:

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS025376.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense A708142 and CCLI #2551458

Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Austin Klimpel

This Week at Palestine

Today, Sunday, May 2, 2021 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

2:00 p.m. Piano Recital (*Mindy DeVries*) Congregation is welcome to come and listen!

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible study

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

12:00 noon ZOOM Prayer time

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Sunday, May 9, 2021 *Sixth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship

New Member Orientation following worship service in conference room

Lectionary texts: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Attendance: 56

Current: \$1,721.50

Benevolence: \$133.50

Quilts: \$10.00

VBS: \$120.00

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support as we strive to reach our average weekly offering goal of \$4,825 for current expenses and \$68 for benevolence.

A graphic with a golden sunburst background and the text "Tithes & Offering" in a stylized, outlined font.

Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**

Go to our website www.plchuxley.com and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING tab on the right located above our "Reaching out in Christian love to all" statement.

Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.



To MOW!

If you are willing to mow the church and parsonage, there is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall! SERVICE HOURS are happily given to high schoolers that want the volunteer hours!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Join us on a journey to Mars and Beyond as we explore where God's power can take us!

Our mission will take place June 13th-17th. from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Palestine Lutheran Church.

- ➡ Here is the link for registration for 4-year old preschool - 5th grade (completed grades). <http://bit.ly/VBSfor2021>
- ➡ If you wish to sign up the old-fashioned way via a paper form, they are in fellowship hall.

Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We Are the Branches (Based on John 15)

To encourage flowering and fruit production in vines, trees, and shrubs, most of us know that pruning is necessary. This isn't the easiest of work, nor does it make the pruned plant look all that great for a while afterward. Yet often what results after pruning is a plant that is more abundant, beautiful, and healthy than it would have been otherwise.

In our reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that he is the vine, his Father is the vine grower, and we, his disciples, are the branches on which fruit grows. Without the vine and the vine grower, the branches do not exist. Yet, often in our spiritual lives it seems as though we get these roles mixed up. We are wooed by the sense of accomplishment and value that comes from producing results of one kind or another, and we fail to acknowledge the source that makes that "fruit" possible.

However, in today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to produce results; it's to stay connected. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing," Jesus says (John 15:5). Jesus is our source and strength; it is only by our connection to Jesus the vine that we the branches bear fruit that will last, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, service, kindness, and patience.

To grow this kind of fruit, Jesus relates how necessary it is for us to be pruned occasionally. In other words, those things that are not of God in our lives have to be rooted out from time to time. The process of pruning isn't always the most enjoyable and can even include a good deal of pain, but it leads to lives that are whole and abundant. As we abide in Jesus, we are given the strength we need to endure the pruning process. We also experience the peace that comes from knowing that the fruit that will follow is for the glory of God.