****

**5th Sunday of Easter**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” *John 15:1-2*

**AS WE GATHER**

How far can the human voice travel? Scientists tell us that the normal outdoor range for an adult voice traveling through still air is about 180 meters or 590 feet. Communication in Silbo, a whistled language of Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the Canary Islands, can travel five miles under ideal conditions. The sound of a voice traveling across still water at night can range up to 10.5 miles. Voices can carry! The message that the voices carry is what is most important. The spoken message about Jesus shared by Philip the deacon with the Ethiopian stranger made an eternal difference in that man’s life. The words that we speak and the messages that we share are of great importance and have the divine potential to “spread the reign of God the Lord” (*LSB* 830:1).

**BAPTISM of Tyler Thorin Carpentier** *(Sunday)*

(*LSB*, Holy Baptism, pg. 268-271)

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**People: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

**People: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

**People: I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Father Welcomes”* (*LSB* 605)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 8:26-40 *(bulletin insert)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 John 4:1-11 *(bulletin insert)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 15:1-8 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover, *Saturday*)

**HYMN** *“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”* (*LSB* 830)

**SERMON “Understand*?”***

# RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“God Loves Me Dearly”* (*LSB* 392)

 *“Take My Life and Let It Be”* (*LSB* 783)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Lift High the Cross”* (*LSB* 837)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

Rev. Craig Fiebiger, Rev. Doug DeWitt

2640 Buckner Road, Thompson’s Station, TN 37179, (615) 791-1880

[www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org)

 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**