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**5th Sunday of Easter**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

**AS WE GATHER**

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ’s vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”* (*LSB* 465)

Now all the vault of heav’n resounds

in praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings,

there-fore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Now still He comes to give us life

and by His presence stills all strife.

“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;

set heart and will on things above

that we conquer through Your triumph;

grant grace sufficient for life’s day

that by our lives we truly say:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Adoring praises now we bring**

**and with the heav’nly blessed sing:**

**“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”**

**Be to the Father and our Lord,**

**to Spirit blest, most holy God,**

**all the glory, never ending!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**PSALM** 150

**FIRST READING** Acts 8:26-40

**EPISTLE** 1 John 1:1-11 (12-21)

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

**HYMN** *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”* (*LSB* 474)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*(chorus)* Jesus is risen and we shall arise:

 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center

telling the story to open our eyes;

breaking our bread, giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *(chorus)*

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;

life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,

gift of the future now flowing to me. *(chorus)*

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:

death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *(chorus)*

City of God, Easter forever,

Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

river of life, saints and archangels,

sing with creation to God the I AM! *(chorus)*

**SERMON *“Abide”***

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**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.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“O Blessed Spring”* (*LSB* 595)

O blessèd spring, where Word and sign

embrace us into Christ the Vine:

here Christ enjoins each one to be

a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years,

uncertain faith, rebellious tears,

sustained by Christ’s infusing rain,

the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,

when limbs their heavy harvest hold,

then through us, warm, the Christ will move

with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must,

we breathe our last, return to dust;

still held in Christ, our souls take wing

and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,

be praised for this blest mystery:

that Word and water thus revive

and join us to Your Tree of Life.

**HYMN** *“On What Has Now Been Sown”* (*LSB* 921)

On what has now been sown

Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;

the pow’r is Thine alone

to make it sprout and grow.

Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,

and Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known,

from Thee are all our pow’rs;

accept what is Thine own

and pardon what is ours.

Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,

and to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us,

now met before Thee here,

may meet together thus

when Thou and Thine appear

and follow Thee to heav’n, our home.

E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**