

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ APRIL 28, 2024

**"I am
the
true
vine ..."**



John 15:1

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's abundant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!” #619 vs. 1-5 & 8

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.**

Hymn of Praise “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” #384 vs. 1 & 2

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.**

please be seated

First Reading

Acts 8:26 - 40

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 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.

²⁶**The 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.

²⁸**For 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.

³⁰**Their 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

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.

Children's Sermon

Joyce Schlesselmann

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" #384 vs. 3 & 4

Gospel

John 15:1 - 8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

[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.

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

#449

Apostle's Creed

**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

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”

#362 vs. 1 & 7

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught 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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

#609

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

#359

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Let All Things Now Living”

#881

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

"CHRIST IS ALIVE, ALLELUIA"



Welcome: Jesus says he is the vine and we are the branches. Sometimes branches grow neatly together; other times they get tangled up! However you feel about the "branches" next to you, greet one another in peace as we prepare to worship our True Vine.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Rodger Luetjen, Eugene Oelrichs, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Dewey Jobe, Judy Smith, Paul Kelly, Renee Weller, Gordon Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Dustin Woods, Gale Logan, Olga Brockman (mother of Pam Luetjen), Alexis Harrington, Liz Smart, Denny & Pam Karl (friends of Melisa Balke), Josephine Heimsoth, Don Gibbs, Melvin Oelrichs (grandpa of Nicholas Dieckman), Art Heimsoth, Dorothy Brown (mother of Bob Brown), Cliff Eckhoff, Averi Kroenke, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Donna Allen (mother of Adrienn Dieckman), Ken Jenson (friend of Connie Gerken), Jamie Simon, Dena Sikoutris, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Annie Bright, Kiley Simon (friend of Jenna Nash), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Bill Hampton, and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*. Kathy Hallauer: *Loving Arms*.

With Sympathy: We also pray for those families who have lost loved ones; family and friends of Sally Viebrock, Peggy Bay and Mike Case.



Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: ENS David M. Gardner (son of Pam Balke), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Cpt. Joseph Strathman.



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.

One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, **April 29th** at 9:00am in the church basement.



LBPS: Little Blessing Preschool will be in session on Tuesday, **April 30th** and Wednesday, **May 1st** from 8:00am until 11:15pm in the church basement.

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **May 2nd** from 8:00am until 10:00am to help you with your health care needs.

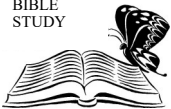


Day-Care: The Day-Care committee will meet after worship on Sunday, **May 5th**.

Graduates: On Sunday, **May 5th**, we will be honoring our graduating seniors during the worship service. One Stitch At A Time will be gifting each of them with a handmade quilt. We invite you to come give thanks for their involvement at St. Paul's, and bless them for the next step in their journey.



BIBLE
STUDY



Bible Study: How many of you have ever thought, "I'd probably get more out of Confirmation as an adult than as a kid"? Or how many of you have come from a different tradition and not dug into the depths of the Small Catechism? This summer, Pastor Stephen would like to host a Bible Study exploring Luther's Small Catechism. Essentially, Confirmation 2.0. We will plan on 6 class sessions. As usual, scheduling will depend on interest. Please indicate your interest in attending

this kind of class on your Offering Card, as well as availability (time or day of the week), or simply contact Pastor Stephen.

~ * ~ **IN OUR COMMUNITY** ~ * ~



Concert: State Fair Community College is hosting its annual President's Concert on Tuesday, **April 30**, at 7:00 pm in the Stauffacher Theater on campus. The concert features SFCC's Contemporary and Chamber Choirs and the SFCC Concert Band, concluding with a combined piece with the band and choir. Prior to the concert there will be a light dessert reception in the cafeteria (next to the theater) where the SFCC Jazz Band will play a few songs. It will be a fun night of music for the community!

Ol' Time Breakfast: The Seniors of North Benton County will have a fundraising breakfast on Saturday, **May 4th** from 6:30am until 9:00am. It will be held at the Senior Center and the funds raised will be used for the parking lot.



Concert: The Sedalia Choral will present it's annual spring concert on Saturday, **May 4th** at 7:00pm in the Heckart Fine Art Facility on the campus of Smith Cotton High School. It is located on south 65 in Sedalia. The concert is call "We Will Rock You" with songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's. For advanced tickets contact Melisa Balke or Bob Farrington.



~ * ~ **Coming Events** ~ * ~

May 5.....Honoring our Graduates
May 19.....LBPS Moving Up Ceremony

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Lois Viebrock
Pianist Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild Glenalee Dillon & Suzanne Lutjen
Ushers Justin Tinney, Head Usher
..... Victoria Fox, John Oelrichs, Braden Poe & Ryan Schlesselman



Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ April 28, 2024

Assisting Minister Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants Debbie Eckhoff & Rhonda Schlesselman
Reader Lynn Shear
Children's Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes Wyatt Gooch & Khloe Viebrock
Flowers Tammie Heimsoth



Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 7, 2024

Assisting Minister Melisa Balke
Communion Assistants At the Altar
Reader Shirley Cash
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes Grady Elliott & Ben Goosen
Flowers Teresa Viebrock