

I am the vine; you are
the branches. If you
remain in me and I in
you, you will bear much
fruit; apart from me
you can do nothing.

John 15:5

DailyVerses.net

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

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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.

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

C. **Amen**

P. Look, here is water!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P. 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 verdant 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!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P. 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.

C. **Amen.**

P. Look, here is water!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

The Peace

P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

May His peace be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**



Greeting

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

C. And also with you.



Kyrie

Refrain S 184

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

This is the feast . . .

Refrain

Assisting minister

S 149



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

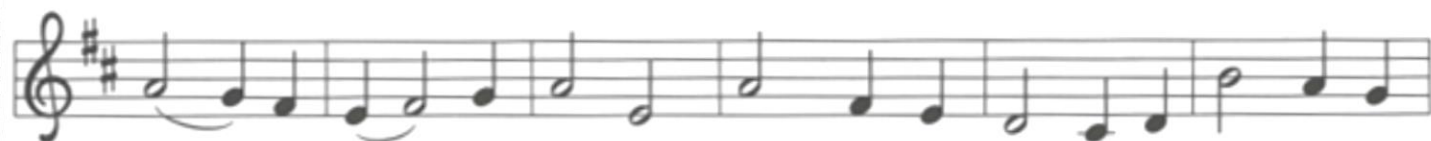
Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

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

Prayer of the Day

A. 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.

C. Amen.

First Reading

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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

Spoken Responsively

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

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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

P. The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter fifteen.

C. **Glory to you, O God.**

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.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sermon

“The Water of Life”

Pastor Wolfgang

Hymn of the Day

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729

Welcome

New Members

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

P. Today, we welcome five persons as new members of our congregation through Affirmation of Baptism. We welcome (please come forward as your name is called):

Robert DeVito
Christopher Eagan
Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane
Josef Herz-Lane (associate member)
Julia Lochra

P. Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these siblings, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

APOSTLES' CREED

L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C. 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 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



Address and Questions

P. In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

R. I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P. People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?

C. We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

P. Let us welcome these new siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

C. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Prayers of Intercession

A. Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

Other prayers

P. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C. Amen.

The Offering

Anthem

Jesus Messiah

Choir

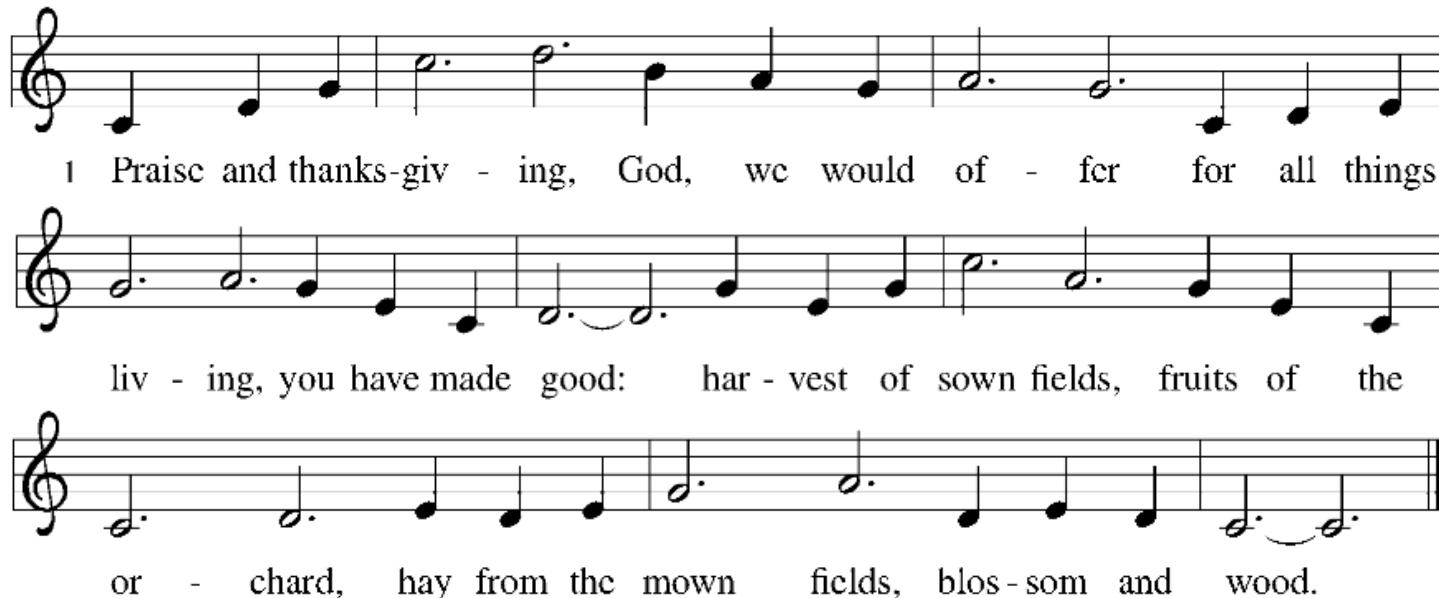
~ Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash & Jesse Reeves

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worshiptogether.com songs; Wondrously Made Songs

Canticle

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.

Offertory Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

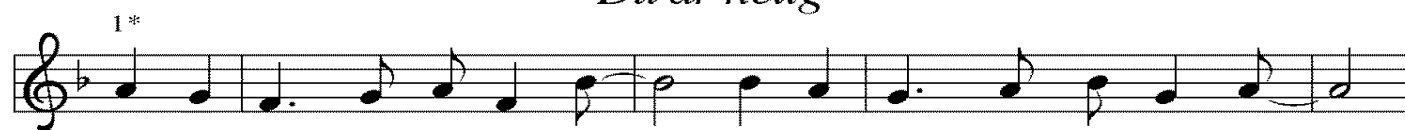
P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter



and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

You Are Holy *Du är helig*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



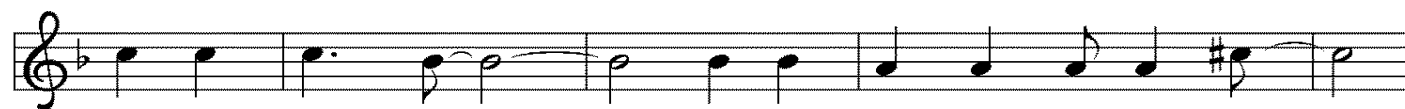
Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



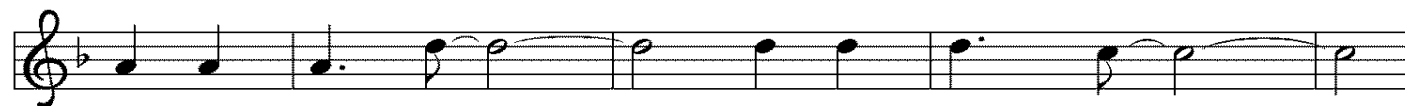
väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



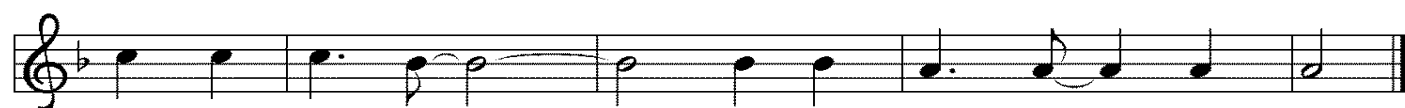
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

The LORD'S Prayer

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

P. The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



Communion Hymns

Choir

<i>Alabare</i>	WOV 791
<i>Build Us Up, Lord</i>	ELW 670

Alabaré

Refrain

*Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.
Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi Señor.*

- 1 John saw the number of all those redeemed,
and all were singing praises to the Lord.
Thousands were praying, ten thousands rejoicing,
and all were singing praises to the Lord. Refrain*
- 2 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood has set us free from ev'ry sin.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and all blessing shall be his. Refrain*
- 3 Sing with the people, the people of God,
and join creation in a joyful hymn.
Blessing and honor and glory and might
to God and to the Lamb be without end. Refrain*

Text: Manuel José Alonso and José Pagán; English text composite

Music: Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán

*Spanish text and music © 1979 Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán, and Ediciones Musical PAX,
admin. OCP Publications*

Post Communion Prayer

P. 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.

C. Amen



Temple Talk: Camp Agape - Tim Clark

Benediction

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Dismissal

A. Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Servers for Sunday, April 28th

Assisting Minister/Reader Shannon Thomsen
Reader Shannon Thomsen
Altar Guild Barbary Kyles
Greeters / Counters Tim Clark / Matt Himmeger
Acolyte Antonio Smith



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are provided by Tom & Alecia Harrison in celebration of Alecia's Birthday!

Candles this month are given by Linda Hash in thankfulness for her LOL family.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.