THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

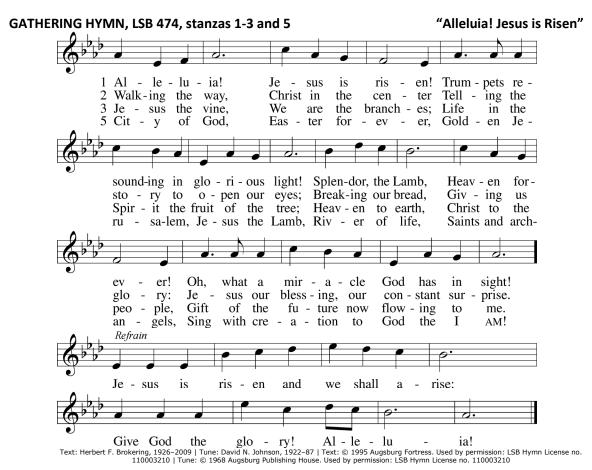
Saturday, April 27, 2024 – 5:30pm Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 8:00am Sunday, April 28 – 10:45am with the **Rite of Confirmation**



As We Gather – "I AM the Vine. You are the branches."

In one of His several "I am" statements, Jesus says, "I am the vine. You are the branches." Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, "Abide in Me." In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God's love. And God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF THE PEACE



INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

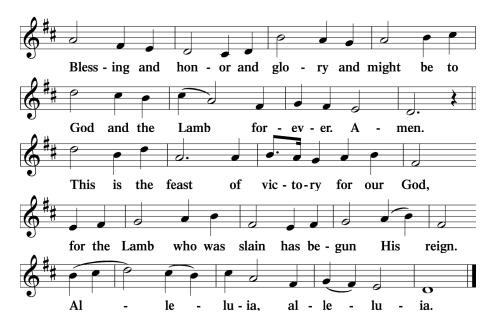
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left

undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

C Amen.





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ▶ Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

FIRST READING, Acts 8:26-40

(Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch)

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

(10:45) CHANCEL CHOIR, "We Will Keep Our Faith Alive!"

(Words and Music by Don Besig and Nancy Rich)

EPISTLE READING, 1 John 4:1-21

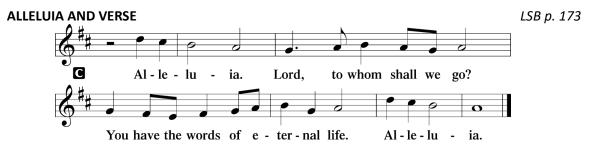
(God is Love)

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us: whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of

judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL, John 15:1-8

(Jesus says, "I am the True Vine.")

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Gehrke



SERMON

Pastor Bob Gehrke

5:30 and 8:00 continue with the Creed

10:45 continues with the Hymn of Invocation and the Rite of Confirmation



THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

After the confirmands make their vows, each confirmand will be called forward. Parent/s, sponsor/s or others who contributed to the spiritual development of the confirmand will lay their hands on the confirmand while the blessing and Bible verse are spoken by the Pastor.

APOSTLES CREED (5:30 and 8:00)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

This is a time that we, as a church family return a portion of the financial blessings God has given us. If you are our guests today, please do not feel obligated to participate. We have many ways to give your tithe or offering. You may place your offering in the plate when it is passed, mail it to the church, text to give by texting 84321 with any dollar amount (be sure to select "South Shore"), give online at sstwbl.org/give, or use the Church Center App from your smartphone (available for both Android and iOS). Disciples of Jesus at SST, please fill out an ivory SST Registration card and place in the offering plate.

Guests: If you would like more information regarding South Shore Trinity, please fill out a blue Guest Registration card before and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher before leaving.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Image Provide the Church on earth, that she would be protected from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, and so always confess Christ come in the flesh, remaining faithful to Him, our only true God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- IP For God's people, that as branches of the vine, all sin and dead works would be pruned and cut off from them; and that drawing life from the Son, they would continually produce the fruits of faith and good works, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- ▶ For all those in need of Baptism, that nothing would prevent them from being welcomed into God's kingdom and given everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with God's good order, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- For all who bear the cross in suffering and affliction, especially ... that they would ever look to the Lord and so fix their hearts where true joy is found, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who come to God's feast of love, that they may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, abiding in this love of God and God in them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Heavenly Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

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- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!
- $\triangle 8$ Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia! Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. | Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice | Text and tune: Public domain

GROWING IN THE WORD

Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ++ give you peace.

C Amen.



2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Phineas Jack Kreitzer

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Liliana Edel Peterson

Psalm 18:28 For it is you who light my lamp; The Lord my God lightens my darkness.

Eliana Clara Sinkula

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

William John Vette

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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TRINITY TIDINGS

April 28, 2024

The Flowers at the Altar today are given to the glory of God by Connie Peltier in memory of her parents, Frank and Agnes Carbone's anniversary, and for the birthday of her sister, LaVonne Hamper Scholz.

Confirmation today – Confirming their faith today will be Phineas Kreitzer, Liliana Peterson, Eliana Sinkula, and William Vette.

"My/Our Commitment for the Lord" card is available from an usher or on the cabinet by the office. Complete the card and bring it back next weekend. You can place in the box in the front of the church as the offering is received. We pray that you will be able to estimate what you able to give in the coming fiscal year. Your estimate will help our leaders produce a spending guide (budget) for our 2024-2025 fiscal year which begins July 1. To provide confidentiality you may place the card in an envelope; however, the Financial Secretary is the only one who will see the cards.

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Kevin will be in the office from 10am-3pm (Monday through Thursday) this week. Jayne is going on a mission trip to Ysleta. *The office will be closed on Friday.*

2024 LWML PRAYER SERVICE, Thursday, May 2, 6:30 pm, SST Sanctuary: Pastor Gehrke will be leading the prayer service, *Grace, Mercy, and Peace*. Everyone, including men, are invited on this National Day of Prayer. Trinity Guild will be serving supper starting at 5:30 pm. Come when you can for this meal and for fellowship! We will collect Mites, and all donations will go to the MN South and National LWML mission grants.

PASTOR'S RETIREMENT – Please reserve Sunday, June 30, 2024 on your calendars as we will be celebrating Pastor's retirement after 42 years as a parish pastor. A shared-dish meal and program will follow the morning services. Donations are being gathered to give to Pastor as a monetary gift from the congregation. If you would like to contribute, please pick up a *"Pastor Appreciation"* envelope from the cabinet outside the office to use for your contribution or clearly mark on your check *"Retirement Gift"* and put it in the offering plate <u>or</u> place it drop slot/special offering in cabinet outside the office. *[The Retirement Party Committee: S. Ackerley, T. Borkenhagen, K. Froelich, C. Gifford, E. Lundgren]*

VBS will be August 5-9. Registration information is on the cabinet by the office. This year's theme is "SCUBA – diving into friendship with God.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke Associate Pastor, Rev. Dan Bodin Acolytes: 8:00 Tyler Reed | 10:45 Talon Pederson Anna Altar: Muriel Janneke & Ann Janneke Coffee: Janet Bowman Counters: Barb Olund & Jean Green Greeters: The Board of Elders Readers: 8:00 Rick Carlson | 10:45 Don Benson Organist/Pianist: 5:30 Rich Carlson | 8 & 10:45 Dr. Jeff Burkart Live Stream Tech: 8:00 & 10:45 Jayne Kurpius AV Tech: 5:30 Ken Kirchhoff | 8:00 Dorit Hafner | 10:45 Joel Kurpius Ushers: 5:30 Glenn Borkenhagen | 8:00 Rick Carlson & Scott Hafner | 10:45 Jeff Butzlaff



CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

(Please include the following people in your prayers)

Those celebrating a birthday: 4/29 – Darrell Hardy, Denise Ackerley, Beverly Hampel, 4/30 – Jean Green, 5/1 – Lilah Gipple, Becky Melde, Janet Hofer, 5/2 – Lewis Peterson, Carla Schrom, 5/3 – Sadie Ackerley, Gavin Hoerneman, Megan Lisowy, 5/4 – Tanya McCuskey.

Those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries: 4/28 – Debbie Geyer, 4/29 – Jackson Pariseau, 5/1 – Jennifer Anderson, Jenna Greenwold, Yvonne Kohrs, Rich Schrom, 5/2 – Jolene Patricelli, Chuck Stuemke, 5/4 – Peter Deeg

Those celebrating a wedding anniversary: 5/3 – James and Nancy Manos

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Note: The May newsletter will be available by Wednesday.

Monday, April 29 6:30pm	Special Office Hours, 10-3pm Scouts					
<u>Tuesday, April 30</u>	Office Hours, 10-3pm					
6:30pm	Board of Elders [F8]					
6:30pm	Women's AA [upstairs]					
Wednesday, May 1	Office Hours, 10-3pm					
9:30am	Young-at-Heart Bible Study [F8]					
9:30am	Women's Bible Study [B9]					
11:30am	Ladies Card Game [F8]					
<u>Thursday, May 2</u>	Office Hours, 10-3pm					
9:30-11:30am	Women's Bible Study [F8] and [B9]					
12:30pm	Dorcas Quilters [B22]					
	No Adult Bible Study					
5:30pm	Trinity Guild Dinner					
6:30pm	Trinity Guild National Day of Prayer					
<u>Friday, May 3</u>	Office Closed					
<u>Saturday, May 4</u>						
9:00am	Praise Team Practice					
10:00-Noon	Grief Share [F8]					
11:00-Noon	Al-Anon [2-5]					
5:30pm	Worship with Communion					

Sunday, May 5

8:00am	Worship with Communion
9:30am	Education Hour
10:45am	Praise Team Worship with Communion

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Please use this Prayer Guide in the coming week to pray for the following people and situations. Those who are listed in italics are friends and family of SST disciples.

For those having surgery: Herb Frederick on Tuesday.

Thanksgiving for Grayden (infant son of Shane and Rachel Whitehurst) who was born early on March 11th. He is home but still needs prayer.

God's healing: Danna Anderson, Margaret Ribble, Elizabeth Iverson, Marian Meier, Tim Lundgren, Lin Carlson, Betty Frohrib, Jolene Patricelli, Nancy Manos, Jim Manos, Jennifer Jewell, Merlin Holman, *Eric Frederick, Kathy Rust*

Those with on-going health issues: Verna Benson, Jim and Meredith Reinholdt

God's comfort, peace and healing for those with cancer: Jack Frahm, Jill Larson, Patti Molkenbur, Bill Niebergall, Lin Carlson, *SST's Letter Carrier, Bruce Semling, Jo Biebighauser*

Protection of our Armed Forces and their families: *Peter Gifford,* Megan Lisowy, *Aaron Meissen, Brodey Perron, Scott Polack, Andrew Reed, Jim Schumann, Dalton Wenzel, Dylan Wenzel, Wyatt Kassa*

For SST Missions and missionaries: *Rev. Dr. Fung and Kalia* missionary family to SE Asia in Thailand | *Pastor Stephen Heimer and Vicar Alex Escarciga at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas* |SST Preschool, reaching our community | SST Medical Supply Ministry

Federal, State and local government and all those in positions of authority