



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 - Setting One
This is indeed a fine and comforting picture. Happy is the Christian who can interpret it thus and apply it in hours of distress and trial, when death upsets him, when the devil assails and torments him, when the world reviles and defames him as an apostle of the devil. Then he can say: "See, I am being fertilized and cultivated as a branch on the vine. All right, dear hoe and clipper, go ahead. Chop, prune, and remove the unnecessary leaves. I will gladly suffer it, for these are God's hoes and clippers. They are applied for my good and welfare."

—Martin Luther, LW 24:193

Welcome
We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 633 (1-4)

Entrance Psalm

[Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon John 16:16]

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

**I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

☞ In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

🕯 **Amen.** [Matt 28:19b; 18:20]

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.** [1 John 1:8-9]

Quiet time for self-examination and confession

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**

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. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Lord, Have Mercy

[Mark 10:47, Setting 1]

Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.

Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. Ⓞ A - men

Gloria

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Ⓐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Ⓞ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1 Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray...[silence for individual prayer] 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Readings from God's Word

The First Reading is from Acts:

Now an 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. And 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. [Acts 8:26-40]

Time for reflection.

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

The Epistle Reading is from First John:

Beloved, 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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. Little children, you are from God and

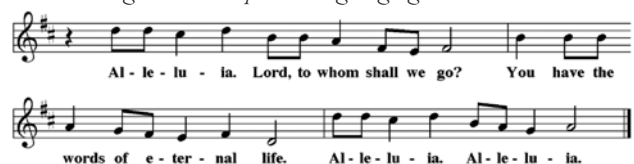
have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [1 John 4:1-11]

Time for reflection.

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

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse. [John 6:68]



The Holy Gospel according to St. John:



I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. 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. If 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [John 15:1-8]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

Children's Talk

[Mark 10:14-16; Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16-17]

The children are invited forward for a message based on today's Scripture readings led by Pastor Erkkinen.

Hymn Christ, the Word of God Incarnate | 540 (1-3)

Sermon

Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the Apostles' Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

...let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the Life at Faith insert. Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay



Offertory Hymn

Let the Vineyards | 955

Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By his dying he destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]



The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

[1 Cor 11:26; Rev 22:20]

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

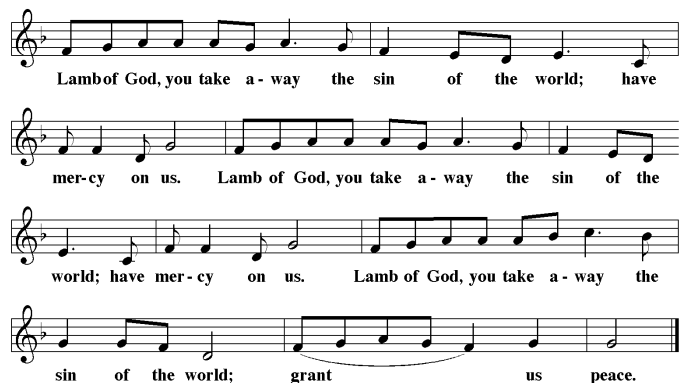
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from \dagger evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

[Matt 6:9-13]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** [John 20:19]

Lamb of God

[John 1:29]



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.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

Hymn

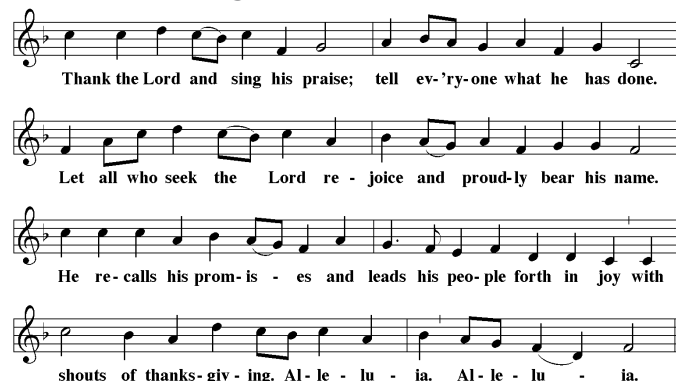
Choir Chimes

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | **633 (5-8)**

Abide, O Dearest Jesus | **919**

Post Communion Song

[Luke 2:29-32]



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

[Hebrew 13:20-21]

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn Christ, the Word of God Incarnate | **540 (4-6)**

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Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

Faith Lutheran Church
P O Box 1164
Columbus, Indiana 47202
812/342-3587
www.faitthontheweb.org

Church Office
office@faitthontheweb.org
Missy Collins
Sarah Dill

Pastors
Eric Erkkinen
(vacancy)
Richard Tremain
Pastor Emeritus

Church Council
Luke Jacobus, Chair
**If you would like a
Board Chair's email,
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Stewardship Ministry
Bill Schnackel, Chair

Christian Education
Susan Waltz, Chair
Laurel Weddle, Preschool
Committee Chair
Child Care Director
preschool@faitthontheweb.org