



Peace Lutheran Church
Hutchinson, MN
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN 474 (Maroon): Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

Jesus said: *"I am the vine, you are the branches."*

We thank you, gracious God, that Jesus Christ is the true vine and we are the branches.

**We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into Him—
branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all fruit.**

Yet we confess that we are sinful and all is not well with the way we live.

Loving God, whatever you see as twisted – straighten, as broken – heal,
as fruitless – prune, as infected – cleanse.

Do not lose patience with us or sever us from the true vine. Rather, prune our unfruitful branches and cut away our diseased ones. Help us to remain in Christ and He in us, through all the changing seasons of life. Let us delight in bearing the fruits of love which are our true purpose and joy. Amen.

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.

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.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG G640 (Green) Lord, Be Glorified

1. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
 2. In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In my song, Lord, be glorified today.
 3. In Your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In Your Church, Lord, be glorified today.
-

Readers: 6:30pm Herb Kuehl; 8:30am Shirley Wurdell; 10:30am Anita Miller

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

Epistle Reading: 1 John 4:1-11

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

▲ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, Hymn 488 (Maroon)

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord

The gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die, And Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, Rising glorious, Life is giving.

He was dead but now is living!

10:30am SONG: Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "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. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (NIV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED - 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.



Children's Sermon: "I Am the Vine - You are the Branches" (Text: John 15:1-8)

6:30pm & 8:30am HYMN 603 (Maroon): We Know That Christ Is Raised

10:30am SONG: The Easter Song

Sermon: "The Committed Sacrifice of Love" (Text: John 15:1-8)

Pastor Meyer

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it along to others. As it is passed back to the center aisle, please take the opportunity to note the names of others seated in your pew.

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

10:30am SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

SONG: 10,000 Reasons

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. **Amen.**

HYMN 537 (Maroon): Beautiful Savior



**Confirmation Service, Sunday, May 5th at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.
Please note that the 10:30am service will be in the Sanctuary next week.**

Sunday School sings May 12th at 8:30am. Last day of Sunday School.

Wednesday, May 29th, "Rootbeer and Bells". 5:30pm dinner; 6:30pm program.

**Join us for a great meal followed by a "singalong" and "playalong" program
of familiar songs and special selections by the handbells!**

Dinner: Pulled pork sandwiches, hashbrown hotdish, beans, cake, ice cream, and rootbeer!

Suggested donation \$10 benefits the music ministry.

Vacation Bible School. June 3-7, 9am-11:30am. JESUS IS MY SUPERHERO!!!

**YES, we will have the Hutchinson Fire Truck, costumes, snacks, music, crafts, games,
Bible study time, minnow races, etc., and a pizza party/program for families on Friday at 11am.**

Pre-register in the office or online. See Dr. Joan to volunteer.

(5th graders and up will be helpers but they should still register.)