

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

May 2, 2021

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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.

Gathering

Prelude ~ Sheryl Williams ~ *Pass It On*

Please Stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

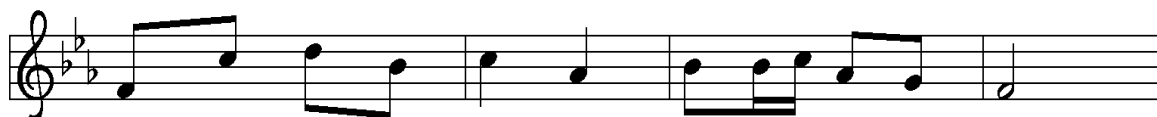
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 379 *Now the Green Blade Rises* v.1,2,3



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Greeting

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration*

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
 sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
 praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
 1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
 freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.
 2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
 glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain

Refrain



Prayer of the Day

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

Word

First Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

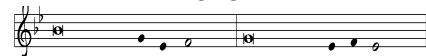
We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

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. **The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31 *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.*

Tone 7



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.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver 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 be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches.* Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. *Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

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.

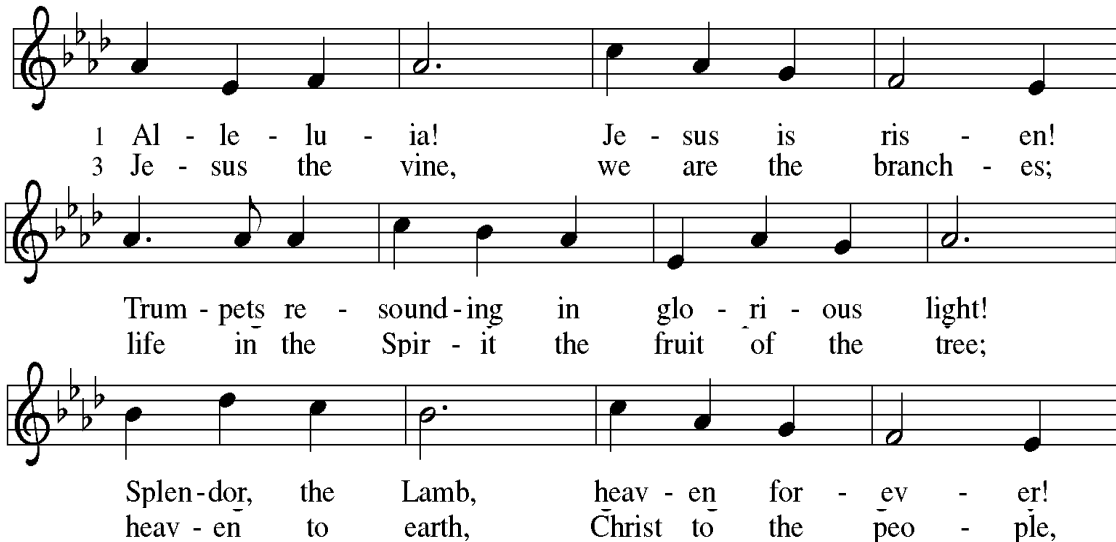
[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as 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. Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

Sermon ~ Lay Worship Leader ~ Ed Whitbred

Hymn of the Day ELW 377 *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!* v.1,3



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
Splendor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,

Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.

Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.

Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all *especially* (read first names only from bulletin list, then add "and others who we name aloud or silently in our hearts). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Meal

An Offering Moment

All that we have and all that we are - are gifts from God. We can only respond with gratitude. At this time, we invite you to consider your offerings for God's abundant blessings. Know that your gifts make a difference to the mission and ministry of the church. We thank you for these offerings which are received in the offering plate, online, or in the mail. Each act of generosity - those of your time, talent, and financial resources - help us all to grow as disciples of Jesus ... who we celebrate today as our risen Lord and Savior. Alleluia!

Please stand

Offering Prayer

God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Distribution ~ Lay Distributor ~ Analee Cree

(At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by our synodical bishop. They will serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.)

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.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Sending Hymn ELW 821 Shout to the Lord





My com-fort, my shel-ter, tow-er of ref-uge and strength;
 let ev-'ry breath, all that I am nev-er cease to wor-ship you.
 Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow-er and maj-es-ty, praise
 to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the
 sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
 for-ev-er I'll love you, for-ev-er I'll stand.
 Noth-ing com-pares to the prom-ise I have in you.

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
 The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
 Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Parish Notes ~ May 2, 2021

Please pray for:

Bishop Lozano, Trevor Murnock, the Wolbach Family, Joe Pacileo, Charlie Kuntz and family, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess. ***Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.***

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30. On other days, you may contact our council president Andy Saska at avsaska@roadrunner.com or 814-450-5620. **Pastoral Emergencies for MAY:** Please contact the Rev. Albert U. Gesler at 814.873.2682 or albertugesler@gmail.com

Requests: Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.

Phone: 814-866-6552, E-Mail: cew6@psu.edu.

During this time of transition, guest worship leaders have been invited to preside at worship services. Because of this, sermons may not always be included in the USPS bulletin mailings.
 May 9: Rick Penn, LWL ~ Lay Distributer, Analee Cree

Finances at AHLC ~ 2021

\$ 8,212 current offerings received in April

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

Year-to-Date (as of the end of April)

\$47,173 offerings received

\$48,604 needed for budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

In-person Sunday worship services. We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home. We will observe these guidelines when in the building to keep everyone safe.

- There will be only one service at 9:30 AM on Sundays.
- We will continue to live-stream on Facebook, then post the service to our web page.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- Our seating arrangement will reflect social distancing.
 - Only families can sit together
 - There is a limit of approximately 25 people (depending on the number of families sitting together)
 - Pews will be taped off.
- We will *not* be sharing the peace. We will be singing 2 or 3 verses of a song.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday ~ May 23, 2021

Cost - \$3.50 for a 4½-inch pot containing one plant with gold foil wrap. Please place this form with your payment, **in an envelope marked Pentecost Geraniums**, mail or bring to service by Sunday May 9th or to the church office by 12N Tuesday, May 11th. Thank you.

PLEASE PRINT

Given to the glory of God:

In Memory of _____

Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

By _____

of plants ordered: _____ \$ enclosed: _____

*If you wish to donate your geranium(s) for the church property, please check here*_____

Sunday, May 23, 2021
Day of Pentecost
KEARSARGE FOOD PANTRY

I would like to donate

\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT

Given to the glory of God:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

Given by _____

Please place this form with your payment, **in an envelope marked Pentecost Donation, mail or bring to service by Sunday May 18th** or the church office by **12N Monday, May 19th**. Thank you.