

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 29, 2018

## Worship Focus

**Risen to Relate: The Vine and the Branches.  
Stay Connected to Jesus.**



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# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Morning Praise

Christian Worship Page 45

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## OPENING HYMN

168 - With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de - light Let us u - nite In songs of sweet  
2 True God, he first From death has burst Forth in - to life,  
3 Let prais - es ring; Give thanks and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, Each take your part,  
all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my Shall van - quished lie;  
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us free  
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall be  
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall his love



For - ev - er, he Is ris'n and sends To all earth's  
Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Said he, who  
Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.  
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536-99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.  
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Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART (448 448 44 44 8) *Cinquante Pseaumes*, Geneva, 1543, alt.

## INVOCATION AND PRAYER



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: (Easter) The Lord is ————— ris - en: let us wor - ship him. |

## PRAAYER AND PRAISE





## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40**

The account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch display the power of the risen Lord through Word and Baptism.

ACTS 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”<sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,<sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

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

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

<sup>32</sup> The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

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

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

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

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

## **Adult Choir**

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## **SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:18-24**

Connection with the risen Lord shows itself in loving actions towards one another.

<sup>1 JOHN 3:18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

## **GOSPEL John 15:1-8**

The branches stay connected to the vine as their source of life.

<sup>1</sup>JOHN 15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will 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.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**“I am  
the  
true  
vine ...”**



**John 15:1**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

385 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart; Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me, All my wants to him are known;  
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod,  
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life,  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-c. 1870, alt.  
Tune: GETHISEMANE (77 77 77) Richard Redhead, 1820-1901.

## SERMON

John 15:1-8

### **Honor God's Representatives**







and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

## FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

### MUSICAL OFFERTORY

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

For the people who are holy to the Lord and for all people according to their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

*Brief silence*

For the Church on earth, that she would continue to proclaim the faithful God who keeps his covenant and shows steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Synod president, our district president, our circuit pastor, and all pastors in Christ, that they would serve with integrity and faithfulness and keep the Gospel ever before us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Synod in convention, that all that we decide may be guided by Your Word and undertaken in prayer and that Your good and gracious will may be done among us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our president, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they would lead with wisdom, seeking what is best for all and in accordance with God's will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our life of prayer, that we would not neglect to pray to the God who has promised to hear us, and that we would rely more and more on Him who has made us His people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our vocations, that we would come to see the various offices that God has given us to occupy as gifts through which we serve Him and our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and those in need, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*], that they know that nothing shall separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus, and that they know the peace of His presence in the midst of their trials, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who mourn, that they be comforted with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and life eternal with those they love who have died in the faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, You have called us according to Your purpose and cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with all the saints into Your Kingdom, which knows no end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**





1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death,  
 2 I have now been graft - ed to the vine,  
 3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ.



That as he was raised by God's glo - ry,  
 Draw - ing life from roots rich in mer - cy,  
 I no long - er live; Christ lives in me.



We might walk in life made new by grace.  
 Bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him:  
 Now I live by faith in God's own Son,



Hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with  
 Fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing  
 One who loved me so— gave him - self for



him.  
 God. Christ is with me  
 me.



ev - 'ry - where I go. Nev - er to



leave me, this I know.

Tune: CHRIST IS WITH ME (9 9 9 10 and Refrain)  
 Text, Tune: Gerald Patrick Coleman, b. 1953, alt. © 1992 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.  
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## PRAYER AND BLESSING

**M** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C** Amen.



**M:** Let us praise the Lord.



**C:** Thanks be to God.



**M:** The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C:** A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

331 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Je-ho-vah,  
 2 O - pen now the crys-tal foun-tain,  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor-dan,  
 Pil-grim through this bar-ren land.  
 Whence the heal-ing stream doth flow;  
 Bid my anx-ious fears sub-side;  
 I am weak, but thou art might-y; Hold me  
 Let the fi-ery, cloud-y pil-lar Lead me  
 Death of death and hell's De-struc-tion, Land me  
 with thy pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en,  
 all my jour-ney through. Strong De-liv-'rer,  
 safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs of prais-es  
 Feed me till I want no more.  
 Be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev-er give to thee.

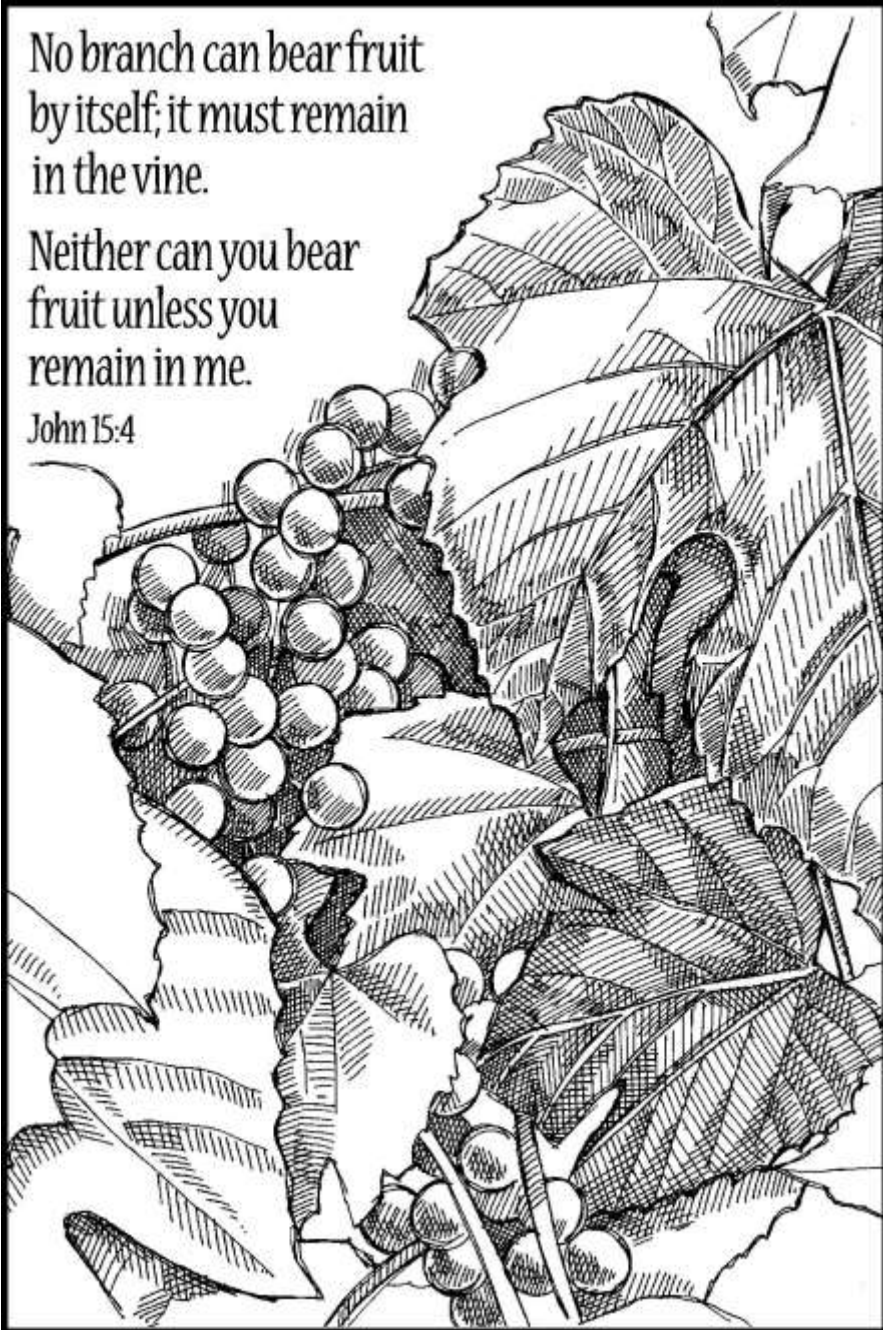
Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abc; tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, st. 1; William Williams, st. 2-3.  
 Tune: GUIDE ME (87 87 47) George W. Warren, 1828-1902.

*After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.*

No branch can bear fruit  
by itself; it must remain  
in the vine.

Neither can you bear  
fruit unless you  
remain in me.

John 15:4





**Love ...  
in truth  
and action.**

**1 JOHN 3:18, NRSV**