

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd, 2021



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Preparation / Prelude

Announcements

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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. 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

Gathering Hymn # 379 Now the Green Blade Rises

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
 wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
 love lives again, that with the dead has been;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
 thinking that he would never wake again;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
 your touch can call us back to life again,
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
 love is come again like wheat arising green.

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Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray, **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.**

THE WORD

Children's Time

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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.**

Gospel: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. John the 15th Chapter **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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, **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon:

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. We pray especially for *Donna, Herb, Kevin, Scott, Dave, Katrina, Jim, Calvin, Ron, Shirley, Lu, Nancy, Della, Judie, Mark, Anna, Tom, Kristen, The Family of Melvin Blaisdell, The Family of Carolyn Harshman, and all those we name now before you whether out loud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.**

Offering:

The ministry of Our Savior's continues and thanks to your generosity, and God's work continues through all of us! Offering can be received either by mailing it to the church at N6450 530th St. Beldenville, WI 54003, dropping it off, online at oursaviorschurch.info under the "give" tab, or simply text your donation amount to 833-506-0632 and follow the instructions on your phone to complete your donation.

Offering Prayer:

Let us pray, 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.**

Communion:

At this time, get out the communion elements you received when you arrived as we gather for the Eucharist.

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 our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe! Blessed are you for the creation, for life in which you took delight. Blessed are you for the promise given to Abraham and Sarah. Blessed are you for rescuing your people Israel from slavery in Egypt. Blessed are you for the words of your prophets that proclaim the hope of our salvation. Blessed are you for your mercies on your people of every time and every place. For you came to dwell among us in Jesus, who preached healing to the sick, wholeness to the broken, and good news to the poor. He gave himself up to death on a cross for us, and he burst the bonds of death to free us forever from its terrors. On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And again after supper he took the cup, he gave thanks and he gave it for all to drink saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen!**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen!**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Bless us with such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now let us pray our Christian table 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.**

Each person takes first the bread, then the wine, and we receive it together.
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Blessing:

May the peace of Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness and protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into God's doors,
In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending Hymn: # 447 O Blessed Spring

- 1 O blessed spring, where word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be
a branch of this life-giving Tree.

- 2 Through summer heat of youthful years,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
the boughs will shout for joy again.

- 3 When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

- 4 As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.

- 5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blest mystery:
that word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.

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Dismissal:

Christ is risen! Alleluia! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
Go in peace and joy to serve the risen Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Please continue to pray for the following people;

The Family of Melvin Blaisdell, The Family of Carolyn Harshman, Donna Hoyer, Herb Nelson, Kevin Dement, Scott Kiefer, Dave Radatz, Katrina Platt, Jim Hauschildt, Calvin Boe, Ron Mireau, Shirley Nickel, Lu Johnson, Nancy Hove, Della Larson, Judie Goodwin, Mark Kiefer, Tom Dachel, Anna Walentowski, and Kristen Anderson.

If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.

Announcements:

Sunday May 2nd 9am Live Stream Worship, Drive-In (radio Station 90.5), In Person Worship, Outdoor Coffee Hour (Youth Fundraiser, Cinnamon Rolls), **NO** Sunday School Hour

Sunday May 9th 9am Live Stream Worship, Drive-In (radio Station 90.5), In Person Worship, Outdoor Coffee Hour, **NO** Sunday School Hour.

The MIM thanks all who were present last Sunday for the MIM breakfast. Because of your generosity, we raised almost \$700 for the Luther Point Annual Fund. If you were unable to attend and would still like to donate you can send a check to Luther Point 11525 Luther Point Road, Grantsburg WI, 54840-8019. Thank You!

Calling all members, families, friends, and neighbors to join us on Sunday, May 23, 2021!

We have many opportunities to serve God with OUR hands and OUR hearts. Kids and youth are strongly encouraged to be a part of this day. The event will begin immediately following our worship service and will conclude with a cookout lunch.

Projects already planned are as follows: Cemetery Work, Deep Cleaning of the Sanctuary Trimming Shrubs and Trees, Level and seed lawn area around the new well, Ditch Cleanup Yardwork for neighbors in need, Cook and serve the lunch (Funded by Thrivent), Other.....?

Thank you to the project leaders who have already committed. Watch for bulletin inserts for further details. We welcome additional projects to possibly include; quilting, pillow case dresses, sending greeting cards, ball park and more. Please contact church office if you are interested in any of those, or have other ideas.

Please **SAVE-THE-DATE** and commit **NOW** to a morning of doing God's work with **YOUR** Hands. Watch for more details.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

In Christ, Property Committee; Bruce Place, Mike Allyn & Mark Raleigh

St. Francis School is currently enrolling students, from preschool through 5th grade, for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in having your child receive an excellent education along with core Christian values, we invite you to visit our school and experience for yourself our welcoming community. Learning the highest academic and personal standards from extremely qualified, loving, teachers in a faith-filled community will

set your child's education apart. Tuition assistance is available for families who need that support. Please call 715-273-4391 to schedule your tour, or to enroll, today.



As you are cleaning out closets and sorting winter outer wear, please remember that Basics for Local Kids has a collection box outside their building on the side street by Bo- Jos Flower shop in Ellsworth. We will not be collecting at church this spring, but all winter wear in clean, good condition can be dropped off at their location. Basics for Local Kids helped 715 kids with winter wear in 2020. Thank You Evangelism Committee

Join our 2021 Luther Point Summer Staff! We are hiring 40 young adults to help lead our summer programming and make an impact in their world. We are looking for Jr. and Sr. Counselors, Team Leaders, Maintenance Assistant, Media Master and a Summer Cook. Follow the links for a more detail on Job Descriptions and to **apply online today!** Go to [Luther Point Bible Camp](#) or <https://lutherpoint.org/employment-opportunities>

SAVE THE DATE: August 12th to the 15th! The 2021 Pierce County Fair. We anticipate operating the Our Savior's Food Stand under the "new normal". That means as normal as possible. So, we need you to make it work. Shift workers, pie makers, soup makers, and donations will be needed and appreciated. Thank you! Clair Severson

Youth News!

Join me for the final S.O.S. Kids Crew of this school year on Wednesday, May 12th from 4:00-5:30pm. **Note:** 2nd Wednesday. Remember to wear your S.O.S. T-shirts!! Friends are always welcome! We will be at the Church ball field (weather permitting) Lucas will be grilling for us.

2021 Mission Trip: will take place at Luther Point, Sunday July 18th through Friday July 23rd 2021 Participants are; Madison Peterson, Taylor Peterson, Morgan Kolodzienski, Dayah Halverson, Brett Unser, Ava Kolodzienski, Andi Peterson, and Lily Young, Chaperones; Patricia Peterson and Jim Chisholm. Contact Patricia if you would like to participate in the 2021 Mission Trip.