

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Thief River Falls, MN

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

May 2, 2021

Holy Communion



I Am the Vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

John 15:5

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Robert Fay

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG** "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" ELW #858

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE** (p. 203)

Congregation: Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

(*Please stand as you are able.)

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 204)

Congregation: Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

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.

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

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.
²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules over 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 before the LORD.
³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 *God's love perfected in love for one another*

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 ACCLAMATION** (p. 205)

Congregation: Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

Christ the vine

P: The holy Gospel...

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “How to Have a Meaningful and Productive Life” Pastor Ale Tulu

HYMN OF THE DAY “Abide With Me” ELW # 629

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **Your mercy is great.**

***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.

OFFERING *Offering plates are available at the entrance and exit*

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *(Ushers will guide you forward at this time)*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Response: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Lord of All Hopefulness" ELW # 765

***BLESSING** Response: **Amen.**

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WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician: Phyllis Dalager

Ushers: Ron & Ruth Ostby

Acolyte: Gracie Anderson

Worship assistant: Millie Reiersen

Reader: Marie Engen

Tech assist: Keegan Benitt

OUR PRAYERS TO Shari Larson at St Mary's, Rochester; Roberta Kalsnes at Sanford, Fargo.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored in memory of Keith Baune by Diane Baune and in memory of Gretchen Rivers Jim & Darlene Hulteen.

ZION'S WEBSITE for May is sponsored by Chris & Nicky Ellison & family in memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong.

REMINDER to those hospitalized to please notify Zion as the hospital does not inform us.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 8:30AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

FALLS DELIVERED MEALS Zion drivers needed May 10-14. Please call Koni at 681-1344 or email her at koni.johnson@outlook.com, if you would like to help deliver meals.

ZION QUILTERS will meet Thursday May 6 & 20 at 1 PM. Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to come.

FLEECE BLANKETS for Zion's Graduating Seniors. It's time for sponsoring or making fleece blankets for our 18 seniors. Some have been finished, we have fleece for more, and are seeking volunteers to either provide funding for a blanket or willing to make one. You can sign up after church today in the narthex or call Glenice Johnson 681-4472 if you wish to help with this project.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY will be held virtually by Zoom on May 22nd from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. If you would like to be a delegate from Zion, please contact the church office. Discounted registration ends May 3rd.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS Sign-up sheets on Madison's office door to Acolyte, Read, or Tech Crew for Sunday worship and receive credit.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY is May 23rd. Seniors-please email Madison a senior picture, future plans, an

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Looking for volunteers to help put on our own VBS this summer. If you are interested please contact Madison.

STEWARDSHIP (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

April 19-25 income: \$2,874.

April 1-25 income: \$24,539.

Year to Date income Jan 1– April 25: \$102,912.

2021 budget \$353,032. / \$6,789. is needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

Contributions may be made by scanning the **QR code** provided. This is processed by Vanco Services.

The credit/debit card kiosk is available in the narthex for contributions also.



Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars directions can make a profound impact.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, May 2: 8:30 Holy Communion Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

9:30 Sunday School posted online

10:00 Worship at Silver Creek

Monday, May 3: Parish Nurse by appt.

Tuesday, May 4:

9:30 Staff meeting

10:30 Pastors Text Study

4 Parish health

Board Meetings

Wednesday, May 5:

6:00 Confirmation Classes

7:00 Senior Choir

Thursday, May 6: National Day of Prayer

11:30 TRF Ministerial meeting

1:00 Quilting

Friday, May 7: 7AM Men's Breakfast at Biff's

9:30 Coffee with Staff

Sunday, May 9: 8:30 Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

9:30 Sunday School posted online

10:00 Worship at Silver Creek

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

Office Phone: 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048

Alemayehu Tulu, *Associate Pastor* 681-1866 alezion@mncable.net

Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* ziontrf@mncable.net; Tiffany Sterry & David Lee, *Custodial*

Madison Crane, *Youth & Family Ministries* 608-535-9151, rzyouthfam@gmail.com; Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King
of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health
and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw
near, joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is
wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sus-
taining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has
been sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your
work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily
attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me
adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with
praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Public Domain

Abide with Me

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide. When other helpers fail and comforts
flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with
me.
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away; change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r? Who like thyself my guide and

stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine,
oh, abide with me.

- 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing
eyes, shine through the gloom, and point
me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847 Public Domain

Lord of All Hopefulness

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could
destroy: be there at our waking, and give
us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts,
Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe: be there at our labors,
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to
embrace: be there at our homing, and give
us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose pres-
ence is balm: be there at our sleeping, and
give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of
the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.
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