

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church Contemporary Worship

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

Growing in Grace

Welcome to all who gather to worship the LORD this day! Welcome to worship on this beautiful spring day that the Lord has made! “Let us rejoice today and be glad” (Psalm 118:24, NIV).

If you are a guest, please take one of the visitor bags at the *Welcome Center* counter at the front entrance.

As We Gather

“I am
the
true
vine ...”



The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ’s vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

Welcome

Memory Verse of the Month: “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

Opening Song

WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM

Chorus: We have come to worship Him, To lift His name on high;
He is worthy of our praise, So let us lift Him to the sky! **Repeat**

He is my Savior, He is the King of Kings,
He is the mighty God, and of His awesome deeds we sing,
And our highest praise to Him we bring. **Chorus**

He is my Father, He is the Prince of Peace,
He is the Risen Lord, and of His awesome deeds we sing,
And our highest praise to Him we bring. **Chorus**

We have come to worship Him.
We have come to worship Him.

By Cheri Keaggy CCLI #806791 © 1994 Sparrow Song (BMI)

Rite of Baptism—Journey Claire Golden, daughter of Sara Golden

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: Amen.

During the Rite of Baptism, the congregation confesses the faith of the church on behalf of the candidate who is not yet capable of articulating the faith:

Pastor: *Do you renounce the devil?*

People: Yes, I renounce him.

Pastor: *Do you renounce all his works?*

People: Yes, I renounce them.

Pastor: *Do you renounce all his ways?*

People: Yes, I renounce them.

Pastor: *Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?*

People: Yes, I believe.

Pastor: *Do you believe in Jesus Christ...judge the living and the dead?*

People: Yes, I believe.

Pastor: *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit...and the life everlasting?*

People: Yes, I believe.

Call to Worship

Pastor: *The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,*

People: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Pastor: *Taste and see that the LORD is good!*

People: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Pastor: *O LORD, how manifold are Your works!*

People: In wisdom have You made them all.

Pastor: *May the glory of the LORD endure forever;*

People: may the LORD rejoice in His works.

Confession and Absolution

Prayer for the Day

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: *Let us pray.*

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

First Reading: *Acts 8:26–40* (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

Epistle: *1 John 4:1–11* (An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

Holy Gospel: *John 15:1–8* (Jesus is the vine and His people are the branches.)

Theme Song

PROTECTOR OF MY SOUL

Oh, Protector of my soul, You will stand against the foe;
In the dark You'll be a light for me Oh, Protector of my soul.

Chorus: You, who created the ends of the earth Guided me unto Your throne
Offered Your healing hand to me, Mercifully made me Your own.

Oh, gracious God above, I could never earn Your love;
I'm amazed to see all You've given me Oh, gracious God above **Chorus**

Oh, Holy Spirit, come, Show the world where life comes from;
May they always see You alive in me. Oh, Holy Spirit, come. **Chorus**

Oh, Protector of my soul, You will stand against the foe;
In the dark You'll be a light for me, Oh, Protector of my soul.

By Ann Barbour CCLI #806791 © 1990 and this arr. 1991 Maranatha! Music

Sermon: “The Whole Christian Church on Earth” by *Pastor Michael Hanson*

Credal Statement

The Third Article

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father...*Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: ...one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Preface (*p. 160 in front of hymnal*)

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Preparation and Lord's Prayer

People: 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.

Words of Institution

Peace of the LORD

Pastor: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

People: And also with you.

Communion Song

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS” *Tiffany Ellingson, solo*

(Solo:) Our God is a consuming fire
A burning holy flame with glory and freedom.
Our God is the only righteous judge,
Ruling over us with kindness and wisdom.
And we will keep our eyes on You,
We will keep our eyes on You.

Chorus(All): A mighty fortress is our God,
A sacred refuge is Your name.
Your Kingdom is unshakable,
And with You forever we will reign.

(Solo): Our God is jealous for His own.
None could comprehend His love and His mercy,
Our God is exalted on His throne,
High above the heavens forever He is worthy,
And we will keep our eyes on You
We will keep our eyes on You **Chorus 2x**

(Solo): With You forever we will reign.
With You forever we will reign.
Our God is a consuming fire
A burning holy flame with glory and freedom.

CCLI Song # 5488935 Christy Nockels | Nathan Nockels

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: *Let us pray.*

Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and to make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide in the Word, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: *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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God!

Closing Song

CORNERSTONE

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name. **Repeat**

Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil. **Chorus**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
Faultless to stand before the throne. **Chorus 2x**

By: Eric Myrin 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing CCLI#806791

Offerings: *“Coins for Christ” is an important part of the Mission funding at Pilgrim. Through this program all loose coins in the offering plate are donated to a mission project. During May, “Coins for Christ” is supporting **POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach).***

You may leave your offering in the plate as you enter or exit. Thank you for making worship with us a priority this Lord's Day.



Prayer Ministry is available for you immediately following today's service in the front of church.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper and confess that we receive not only bread and wine, but also the true Body and Blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and are united intimately with Him and each other in a holy faith fellowship.

Because of our concern for all who receive the Sacrament here (1 Cor. 11:27-30) and since receiving the Supper is also a confession of faith (1 Cor. 10:16-17), any who are not instructed, in doubt, or have not communed here before are requested to talk with a pastor before communing. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available for those in need; please discuss this with the pastor. If you are unable to come to the altar and would like to receive communion in the pew, please inform an usher.

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4:1-11

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God:

every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.