

Traditional

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church
Order of 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 Hymn: “In Christ There Is No East or West” # 653

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

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

Pastor: *As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.*

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: *As you believe, so let it be. Go knowing that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: Amen.

Introit: *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

Pastor: *A little while, and you will see Me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see Me.*

**People: I will extol You, my God and King,
and bless Your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: *Every day I will bless You
and praise Your name forever and ever.*

**People: The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: *All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,
and all Your saints shall bless You!*

**People: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: *A little while, and you will see Me no longer;*

People: and again a little while, and you will see Me.

Hymn of Praise: “There Is a Balm in Gilead” # 749

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.)

Pastor: *This is the Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day *Psalm 150*

¹*Praise the LORD!*

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

²*Praise him for his mighty deeds;*

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

³*Praise him with trumpet sound;*

praise him with lute and harp!

⁴*Praise him with tambourine and dance;*

praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵*Praise him with sounding cymbals;*

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!*

Praise the LORD!

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

Pastor: *This is the Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (*p. 156*)

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

Pastor: *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.*

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: “Built on the Rock” # 645

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.*

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

People: hear our prayer.

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

People: Amen.

The Lord’s Supper

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.

Proper Preface

Pastor: *It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:*

Sanctus (p. 161)

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: *Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

People: Amen.

The 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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

People: And also with you.

Agnus Dei (p. 163)

Distribution Hymns: “The Church’s One Foundation” # 644
“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” # 633

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

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 Hymn: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” # 643

Offering: “*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 worship. Thank you for making worship with us a priority this Lord’s Day.



**That All May
Know Him**

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.