



Sunday, May 2, 2021
9:00 am Livestream

GATHERING

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GATHERING HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

GREETING

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

A reading from Acts.

An 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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

Easter 5
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

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!"

A reading from First John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

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

The response is:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Technical Support

Gary Hibbard - Layreader

Juli Antonson - Vocalist

Technical Support

Patrick Kieper

Travis Puig

Joel Freiberg

Bob Wiederhoeft

Altar Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Jim and Sue Hahn in celebration of their family.

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Perfect love casts out fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:8-10	The Lord's chosen servant
Thursday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Friday	Deuteronomy 31:6-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

There 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.

1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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MAY 2, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Where True Charity and
Love Abide*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I 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." It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org