

Celebrating God's Greatness and Love

The Sixth Week of Easter

EARLY SERVICE

May 9, 2021

First Lutheran Church

Charlotte Michigan

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**Jesus said:
"I am the vine. You are the branches."**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP

It is our privilege to gather together in the house of the Lord to worship the God Who in His sovereignty and grace meets all our needs, including giving us life with Him forever. Let's come humbly into His presence, seek His word and Spirit, and express our confession, our thanksgiving, and our adoration.
May your heart rejoice in the love of God . . . and overflow with love to others.

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your Order of Worship)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take your child to the "NURSERY" behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary. In that room you can see and hear the service.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

... our Order of Worship is to Praise Him – our God ...

Galatians 2:19-21 (NIV)

St. Paul wrote: *For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

THE TRIUNE GOD HAS EXHIBITED HIS GRACE

OUR GOD HAS MADE PEACE BETWEEN US

*Since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 3:25)*

A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

OUR OPENING PRAISE

Pastor: Praise Yahweh, the Lord our God.

Praise Him in His sanctuary; praise Him in His awesome heavens.

**All: O LORD, we praise You for Your acts of power
and for Your unsurpassed greatness.
You are the eternal sovereign God.**

Pastor: We praise You, LORD, with our music, our prayers,
our thoughts in our minds and adoration in our souls.
May every thought and feeling be filled with faith and love.
Close our minds to distracting thoughts.

All: Yes, LORD, work in our souls – our hearts, minds, wills, and spirits.

Pastor: Spirit of God, fill us with Your presence.

**All: Let everything that has breath and life join in praising You, O LORD,
our God and our salvation. Amen**

OUR PRAYER IN SONG – LSB 908 – “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”

GOD TEACHES US HIS TRUTH

THE FIRST EPISTLE READING - 2 Timothy 1:1-10

Timothy was raised in faith through his grandmother and mother.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND EPISTLE READING - Titus 2:11-15

We are encouraged to grow in faithfulness to God and in all the things of God.

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious

appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. ¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

THE GOSPEL READING - John 15:1-8

Jesus explains that He is the true vine and we grow from Him and through Him.

[Jesus said] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Pastor: These are beautiful thoughts – beautiful truths – expressed by Jesus.

**All: Jesus, help us recognize You as the true vine . . .
and treasure You as the true vine . . .
and trust You as our source of life and vitality.**

OUR SONG OF THANKSGIVING - "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

(sing to the tune of LSB 578)

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus – vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.**

**Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Your love –
leading onward, leading homeward to Your glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore –
how He loves us, always loves us – changes never, nevermore.**

**See He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call us all His own.
For us all He now intercedes, watches o'er us from His throne.**

**O Your deep, deep love, O Jesus – love of ev'ry love the best!
It's an ocean full of blessing; it's a haven sweet with rest.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me
for it lifts me up to glory. Yes, it lifts me up to Thee.**

THE MESSAGE "Connected to the Vine and Bearing Fruit"

MESSAGE OUTLINE IN QUESTION FORM

- 1 What are vines like?
- 2 To what does Jesus – the Vine – connect us?
- 3 What has God given us so that we are connected to Jesus?
- 4 Besides clinging to the Vine through faith, what else are the branches expected to do?
 - a) What is the first major kind of fruit?
 - b) What is the second major kind of fruit?
- 5 What are some examples of good fruit that Paul saw in Lois and Eunice and encouraged in Timothy and Titus?
- 6 What is so absolutely essential for us in order to stay alive spiritually?

What is so essential in order to bear fruit?

OUR GOD DRAWS US CLOSE WITH HIS MERCY AND GRACE

A PRAYER FOR OUR CONNECTION TO THE VINE AND OUR FRUIT-BEARING

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Do you believe in the one and only true God – the Triune God – Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit?

People: Yes, I believe in the one and only true God, the Triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: Yes, I believe in the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **Yes, 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.**

All: (sing)

**We all believe in One True God – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost –
ever-present help in need, praised by all the heavenly host.
All He made His love enfolds; all creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne and for us salvation won –
by Whose cross and death are we rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds . . .
Who sustains and comforts us in all trials, fears, and needs.
Blest and holy Trinity, praise forever Yours shall be!**

LSB 953 - "We All Believe in One True God"

THE BAPTISM OF CASE THOMAS GREENE IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD

*Case is the son of Ashley and Jeff Green, brother of Conner and Cameron Greene,
and grandson of Patty and Dick Greene. His sponsor is Angela Brendlinger.*

A SONG SHARING GOD'S BLESSING – LSB 922 – "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

**Go, My children, with My blessings – never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessings – You are My own.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven – at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you – what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story. Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven – at peace and pure.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished – closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving – joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled You. Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished – closer to me.**

THE LORD GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OUR PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Pastor: O Lord, You have graciously given mothers
a tremendous wealth of blessings – blessings for their roles as mothers.
You have filled them with love . . . and caring . . . and compassion.

***Mothers: Thank You, heavenly Father, for giving us Your love and care and
compassion . . . and enabling those to flow through us to others.***

**Others: We pray now that mothers would always experience a tender and
warm response to their love.**

Pastor: You have wonderfully given mothers virtues
and values which are godly.

***Mothers: Thank You, Holy Spirit, for Your work in us . . .
for changing us to be more like You.***

**Others: May their example be an inspiration to us . . .
so that we too would walk in Your ways.**

Pastor: You have created mothers with the special ability to "mother."

Mothers: Thank You, creator God, for those instincts You put into us.

**Others: May our mothers' nurture and loving hugs . . .
be passed on to their grandchildren. And may our appreciation
be expressed to mothers in a lifetime of love.**

Pastor: You have given mothers the wisdom to pray.

***Mothers: Thank You, almighty God, for hearing our prayers
and giving us insight and wisdom.***

**Others: May they always seek Your face in prayer . . .
and truly be blessed as they commune with You.**

May their needs and the desires of their hearts be fulfilled in You.

All: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT

**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**

GOD SENDS US OUT RENEWED IN FAITH AND PRAISE

REFLECTIONS ON OUR LIFE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*The Lord God has rescued us from damnation and put His Spirit into us.
He has truly blessed us with great spiritual gifts -- forgiveness, spiritual life,
eternal life with Him – and everything we have in us and in our world.
Giving our tithes and offerings is a wonderful expression of our trust
in the one and only true God.*

OUR CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG - LSB 921 - “On What Has Now Been Sown”

THE BLESSING

Silent Prayer

.....

THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING TODAY

A BLESSING

May continuous thoughts of the true God -- the Triune God --
and His amazing grace swirl through your heart and mind,
your conscious thought, and your prayer.
Go in His strength and grace.
Stay in the vine and bear good fruit.

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

Many of us have been wonderfully blessed by having God-fearing, godly mothers.
The love of a mother is wonderful, especially a Christian mother. They take care of us,
often somehow meeting virtually every need we have. That begins even before we are born.
Christian mothers (along with our fathers) present us to God and let Him put faith into our
souls (along with the other gifts God wants us to have – spiritual life, forgive-ness, salvation,
eternal life, etc.) They teach us about Jesus and help us trust Him as our Savior. They
teach us about God and His blessings as we see them in life. They show us God's love,
because God and His love is in them. Our Christian mothers show us God's love by loving
us. They give us a picture of God's unconditional love by forgiving us and sacrificing for us.
Even when we are very unlovable, they love us. That's how God is, and our mothers get
that ability because they know God and have Him in them. Yes, let's praise and thank God
for Who and what He is, and let's thank Him that He gave us mothers who served Him.

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