

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2107 Three Oaks Rd, Cary, IL  
May 1 & 2, 2021  
**Observing the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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Inspired by Christ • Serving under Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ

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Order of Service from Setting IV, page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book

OPENING HYMN

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

LSB 474

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**  
**Trumpets resounding in glorious light!**  
**Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!**  
**Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

*Refrain:*

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise:**  
**Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center**  
**Telling the story to open our eyes;**  
**Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:**  
**Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain***

**Jesus the vine, We are the branches;**  
**Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;**  
**Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,**  
**Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain***

**Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent:**  
**Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.**  
**Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”**  
**Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain***

**City of God, Easter forever,**  
**Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,**  
**River of Life, Saints and archangels,**  
**Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain***  
*Matthew 28:5-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 5:6-14; John 15:1-8*

*Please stand*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**C: Amen.** *[Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.** *[Psalm 124:8]*

**P:** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *[Psalm 130:3-4]*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me. I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! 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. A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me. *Ps. 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: Jn 16:16*

KYRIE [Mark 10:47]

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS [Luke 2:14; John 1:29]

**To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing--  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heavenly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us Jesus; receive our heart-felt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high--**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with You.**

P: 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,

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:1–21

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

THE ALLELUIA

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**These things are written that you may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** *[John 20:31]*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1–8

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

*Please be seated*

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

LSB 691

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.**

*John 15:1-9; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:8-10; Luke 6:43-45*

SERMON: "Our Life In Jesus Is All About Connections" Text: John 15:1-8

Your offering may be placed in the collection plate in the Narthex as you depart the church.

Please stand

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.** [Colossians 3:1]

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** Psalm 136]

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto You O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give you thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Here us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### 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

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Please be seated*

DISTRIBUTION

*Distribution today is by station communion. Ushers will invite people to the front by family or individual. Pastor will drop the wafer into your cupped hands and you may take the individual cup yourself and dispose of it into the basket provided.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

LSB 477

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim, For the world's salvation bled--  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia to the Savior, Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia, To the triune Majesty.**

*1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Isaiah 25:7-9; Revelation 21:4; 2 Timothy 1:10*

*Please stand*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2:29-32*

**O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding, through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

**C: Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

LSB 706

**Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving, May His will in us be done.**

**Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ’s humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life’s end**

*Colossians 3:12-14*

†††CHRIST IS RISEN†††