

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, May 2, 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday in Easter

Welcome

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Call to Worship¹

Jesus offers a new-old commandment,
that we should love each other.

With the incredible power and the unfathomable depth of God's love for us
we can, we must, love one another.

And it is in this; our love for one another
that the world will know whom and what we worship.

Come, children of God!
Let us love one another.

Song – Jesus, We Are Gathered²

Jesus, we are gathered, Jesus, we are gathered,
Jesus, we are gathered, we are gathered, Lord Jesus, for you (x3)

Prayer of the Day

The Readings

Psalm 118:1, 21-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
The Word of the Lord

1 John 4:16-21

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. The Word of the Lord

The Holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8

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

Sermon

Song: O Blessed Spring³

O blessed spring, where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
Here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:
That Word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.

The Apostles' Creed

Let us Confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayers of the People: We pray: *Lord in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion⁴ (only during zoom)

The Lord be with you. *And also with you*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is right to give praise to you, Jesus Christ, God in human form.

You summon forth new life, from the silence of the grave,
and abundant hope, where none was to be found.

Born into obscurity,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone he came.

Baptised into solidarity with all who yearn for a better world,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone he came.

Identifying the uniqueness in all who were ordinary,
transforming dead tradition into living faith,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone he came.

And then denied by those who followed him, crucified by those who feared him,
dead, buried, consigned to hell until heaven required his resurrection
and he arose to redeem all that we had ruined;

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone, him we hallow, whose name is Jesus.

Holy and gracious God present with us now, send in kindness your holy spirit
to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

As we eat this food, may that same spirit nourish, cherish and change us
until through the mystery of your grace, we know ourselves to be

flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone and resolve to know and follow Christ forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

L: Now Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us;

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Song – Shout to the Lord⁵

My Jesus, my saviour, Lord there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;

let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy to the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you. *(Sing the whole thing again).*

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with us. *C: Thanks be to God.*

¹ written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on **Outside the Box**. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

² ELW hymn #529 Text & Music: Peter Matsikenyiri © 1990, 1996 General Board of Global Ministries, GBM Musik. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A736240.

³ ELW hymn #502 vs. 1, 2, 4, & 6. In the Public Domain

⁴ written by John L. Bell & Graham Maule. From **The Wee Worship Book**. ©2015 Wild Goose Resource Group. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A736240

⁵ ELW hymn #821. Text & Music: Darlene Zschech. © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin in USA & Canada Integrity's Hosanna! Music.