



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Prospect Heights, IL
Office: 847-537-4430

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Rev. Jim Kirschenmann, Vacancy Pastor

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Growing in Grace

As We Gather

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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Sentences

Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11

- P** The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
C in those who hope in His steadfast love.
- P** Taste and see that the LORD is good!
C Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- P** O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
C In wisdom have You made them all.
- P** May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
C may the LORD rejoice in His works.

Confession and Absolution

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Hymn 613 To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

st. 1

1 To Thee, om - ni - scient Lord of all, In grief and shame I
hum - bly call; I see my sins a - gainst Thee, Lord,
The sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
sore; I cry to Thee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution Conclusion

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

C **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.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As you believe, so let it be. 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.

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

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

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see Me.

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

P Every day I will bless You
and praise Your name forever and ever.

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

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

C **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.**

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see Me.

Kyrie

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now 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.
³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But 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

1 John 4:1–21

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷By 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If 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. ²¹And 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.

Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By 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.

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Sermon - "And the answer is... YES!"

Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Kathie Kirschenmann, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Annette Kirschenmann, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Doug, Wally Olson, Janna, Ralph and Carol, Maria, Andrew, John and Pastor Barber and his family, and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Prayer

- P** On this day of special prayer, known as Rogation Sunday, we ask God's blessing on the seed that is planted, on the soil that is cultivated, and on all those who labor in the fields of our land. Let us pray.

Almighty God, You bless the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. Bless the seed and the soil that there may be growth and gracious abundance in the time of harvest. Prosper the work of farmers and all those who labor to bring food to our table. Grant them seasonable weather that they may gather in the fruits of the earth and proclaim Your goodness with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.

- C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

- C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. With joy, we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

Sanctus

LSB 178

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** 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.

- C** Amen.

Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Remembering Your mercy, O Lord, and how our Savior suffered upon the cross, died the death that was ours to die, rose to bestow upon us the life that death cannot overcome, ascended to the glory of the Father's right hand, and sent forth the Spirit to lead us into faith, we pray You to bring to conclusion all that our Savior began and deliver us to that everlasting life and light in heaven forevermore. Hear us as we pray with one voice the prayer He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

We Receive the True Body & True Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Benediction (Aaronic)

P 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.

C **Amen.**

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C** Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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Weekly Announcements

Worship:

If you are planning to attend in person worship, please register each week using the link below.

<https://rsvp.church/r/PsLbwYgP>

Please dispose of your worship bulletin (and Communion supplies) or take them with you. We are not recycling them.

We have resumed the use of the mailboxes upstairs, so please check yours today.

Please check the *May Monthly News* for exciting new changes taking place next month.

Wednesday Evening Pastor-Led Bible Studies

Pastor-led Bible Study has resumed on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm online.

ACTS: A study of Growth in the Church. This means growth in Christian attitudes, insights, and skills for Christian living. The focus of this course will be the church and the world of our day. The guiding question will be this: *What does the Lord teach us for life today through the book of Acts?* Join us online on Wednesday evenings, 7 pm at <https://Koinonia.ClickMeeting.com/Acts> (or visit there for the recorded sessions).

Online Giving:

We are now set up for Online Giving on our website as well as in Breeze. If you haven't set up your personal Breeze account, please do so using the email invite that was sent out to you. Setting up your account allows you to update your personal contact information and allows access to online giving.

If you need another invitation or need help setting it up, please contact Jim Burmeister at

elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org or (847) 934-5963.

Prayer Request Information:

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone: (847)934-5963 or via email: elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Email address for Pastor Jim:

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Jim, please use the following address:

Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org

Summer Suppers:

Please check the *May Monthly News* for detailed information regarding the 2021 Summer Supper Program.

Altar Flowers:

Thank You! The flowers last week were placed to the Glory of God by Don and Marion Campion in celebration of Don's Birthday.

Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List:

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: Beans (Cannellini, Northern, White, etc. green not needed) Canned Meat Products (Hash, Beef Stew, Ham, Ravioli, Spam etc.), Mayonnaise, Potato Products (Au Gratin, Instant Mashed, Scalloped, etc.) Vegetable Soup (no Broth please). Items can be dropped off at the Wheeling Township office located at 1616 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. Questions can be directed to Julie Villarreal at 847-259-7730.

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sonshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!

May 2021

No.	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17							1
18	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
22	30	31					

May Happenings

May 2 9:00 am – The Fifth Sunday of Easter – With Communion

May 9 9:00 am – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – No Communion

May 11 6:30 pm - Board of Directors Meeting

May 13 6:30 pm – ORLC Summer Suppers

May 16 9:00 am – “The Ascension of the Lord (Observed)” – With Communion

May 20 7:00 pm - Call Committee Meeting

May 23 9:00 am - Pentecost Sunday – No Communion

May 30 9:00 am – Trinity Sunday – With Communion