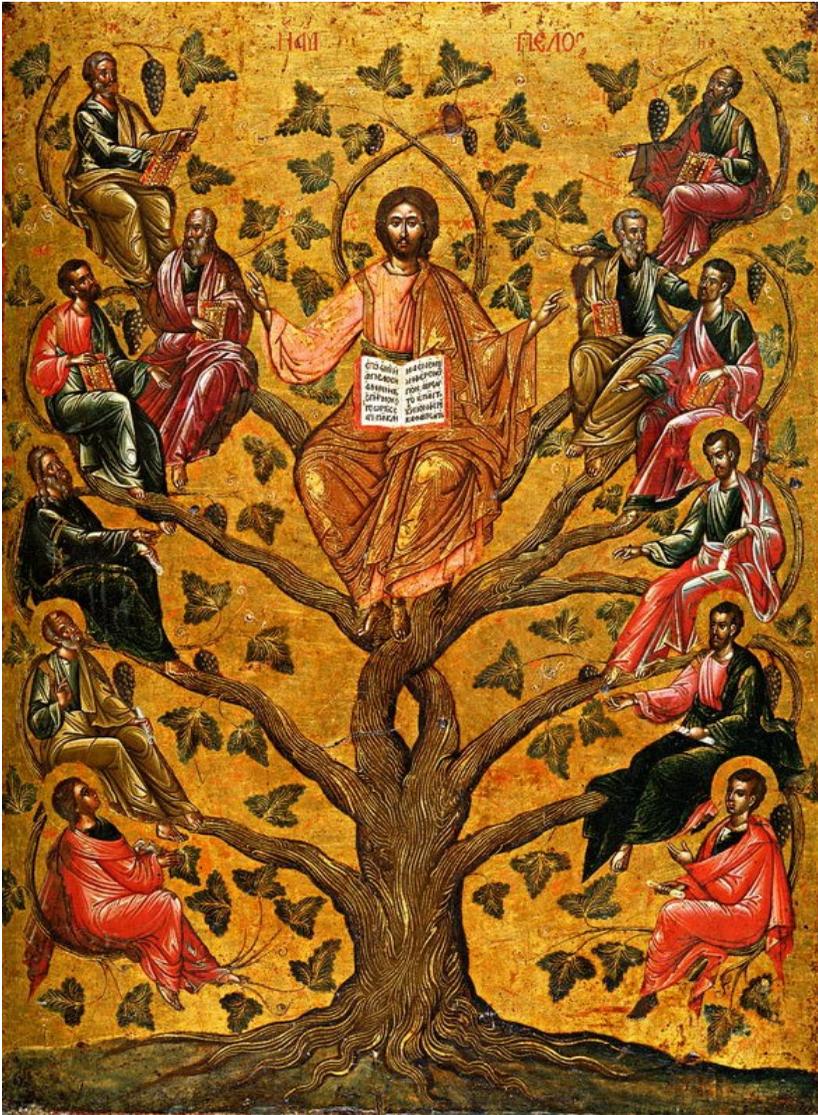


Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



Eastern Orthodox icon of Jesus Christ as the True Vine, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55553>

Welcome and Worship Announcements

Prelude

“Abide With Me”

Anne Krentz Organ

This arrangement of hymn #629 is by Anne Krentz Organ, an accomplished composer who serves as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Illinois.

The congregation stands

Invocation

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives
with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord;
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy church acknowledges you:

**Father, of majesty unbounded;
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise;
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took on our flesh to set us free,
you did not despise the Virgin's womb.

**You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

Come, then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

**Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you. We praise your name for ever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy, for we have put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope: let us never be put to shame.**

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

First Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

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 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.

Psalm 22: 24-30

Spoken by all

- ²⁴**My praise is of the LORD in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship.**
- ²⁵**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD sing praise:
"May your heart live for ever!"**
- ²⁶**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations bow before God.**
- ²⁷**For kingship belongs to the LORD;
God rules over the nations.**
- ²⁸**To the LORD alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before God.**
- ²⁹**My soul shall live for the LORD; my descendants shall serve;
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**
- ³⁰**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that God has done.**

Second Reading

1 John 4: 7-21

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.

The congregation stands

Gospel

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 congregation is seated

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The congregation stands

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

Peace

Offering

Offertory

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

J.S. Bach

*This is a setting by Bach (1685-1750) of an Easter hymn by Martin Luther (1483-1546),
found at #370 in our hymnal. Luther’s hymn is an adaptation of an older German folk
hymn, itself an adaptation of an even older Latin hymn.*

The congregation stands

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Dialogue

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 God thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,

you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The congregation is seated

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

The congregation stands

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Christ is Alive!"

J. Wayne Kerr

This is a setting of hymn #389. J. Wayne Kerr is well known for his handbell, organ, and choral compositions, and currently serves as Pastoral Deacon and Kantor for West Portal Lutheran Church and School in San Francisco, CA.

Worship Leaders

8:30

Amy Zellers
Vic Allwein

11:00

Anne Blackwell
Thomas & Brenda Stewart

As we continue to open our doors, we are in need of assistance in different areas. Can you help just 1 Sunday? That's all we ask.

Interested in helping, contact Scottie at 828.253.0043 - thanks all!

Vi Adams Funeral Details -

Friday, May 7th at 12:30 here at St. Mark's.

Please note the balcony and chancel may be open for additional sitting.

Saturday, May 15th - 11am

Please plan to join us here at St. Mark's as we bid farewell to Scottie & Holden. It will not only be an "extravaganza" but Holden will also be baptized -

Look for more details in your email and in the next week.

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 2nd

8:30 - Worship
9:45 - Coffee Hour on Playground
9:45 - Faith Formation in Library
11:00 - Worship
1:00 - Youth Group

Monday, May 3rd

10:00 - Faith & Fellowship
1:30 - Book Study
5:45 - Executive Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 4th

9:00 - Quilters
10:00 - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 5th

9:00 - Property Day

Thursday, May 6th

6:00 - Handbells
7:00 - Evangelism Team Meeting

Saturday, May 8th

6:00 - Youth Group

Sunday, May 9th

8:30 - Worship
9:45 - Coffee Hour on Playground
9:45 - Faith Formation in Library
11:00 - Worship

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Ministers

The People of God at St. Mark's

Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith
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Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry
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Facilities Manager: Steve Henry
facilities@stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Our Mission

Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith, serving all people

Our Vision

Transforming lives through God's grace as an inclusive, intergenerational congregation
in Worship, Outreach, Learning, and Fellowship.