



Christ's Power Is at Work in You

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | #429

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria



Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward
men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon
 us. For you only are holy. You only are the Lord.
 You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the
 glory of God the Father. Amen.

Service of the Word

The readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter tells us about the power source for our own resurrected and changed lives—connection with Jesus. We aren't connected to a mere memory. We are filled with the power and presence of a living person. That's good news for people who feel helpless and powerless on their own in living the new Easter life of faith.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we may remain in Christ: Loving heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. Strengthen our faith, so that we remain united with him and bear the fruit of love. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:16–24

Our actions show if we are connected to the vine. Loving each other is not mere sentiment in the emotions; love is found in the will and the hands.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1–8

Various Old Testament prophets pictured Israel as God's vine, but always in a context of failure. Jesus is the true vine Israel was meant to be but never was. Only by connection with him can we become what we are meant to be.

¹ "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, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Acts 4:32–37

All the branches were so closely connected to the one vine of Christ as to be described as having a single heart and mind that was oriented around an entirely new and different set of priorities.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. ¹ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

Write down at least one reason to praise God (i.e., one of his attributes or characteristics).

Write down at least one sin to confess (actions, words, thoughts, desires).

Write down at least one reason to thank God for a good thing he has done in your life.

Write down two things to pray about for yourself.

Write down two things to pray about for other people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

And 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**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.
Amen.**

HYMN

Create in Me



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Service of Thanksgiving

OFFERING

We give offerings out of thanks for all that God, in Jesus, has done for us. King of Grace uses these offerings to support the preaching and teaching of God's word here and around the world. Contribute at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give or in the offering plates.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

HYMN

Son of God, Eternal Savior



1. Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
 2. Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Chur - ch's__
 3. As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
 4. Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
 sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
 sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
 free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
 hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
 sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
 sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
 will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
 crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, so that by the patience and comfort of your holy word we may embrace and always hold secure the blessed hope of everlasting life. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The third measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on E4. A slur is placed under the notes in the third measure, and the piece ends with a double bar line.

Meditate on how Psalm 63 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher.....Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Organist (Sunday).....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**.....Andrew Shoop



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