

## **As We Gather    The Fifth Sunday of Easter    May 2, 2021**

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.

**Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center**  
**450 Turtleback Road Mesquite, NV 89027**

Church **702.346.5811** Childcare 702.346.3954

**Rev. David Constien**

Email: [pastor@mesquitelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@mesquitelutheran.org) Cell: 815-409-1156

[www.facebook.com/mesquitelcc](https://www.facebook.com/mesquitelcc)



Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.  
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.**

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily.  
(1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church can come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

**PRELUDE They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love – arr. Hayes**  
**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN # 912 “ Christ Is Our Cornerstone”**

**INVOCATION**

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

**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.  
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

**P** O Lord, who hears the voice of our cry for help,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Christ, who has given us a spirit of power and love and a sound mind,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Lord, whose limitless forgiveness invites us to let go of our resentments,

**C** have mercy on us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** (LSB 790 Sts 1,5 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”)

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!**

## **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

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone

else?”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> 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?”<sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

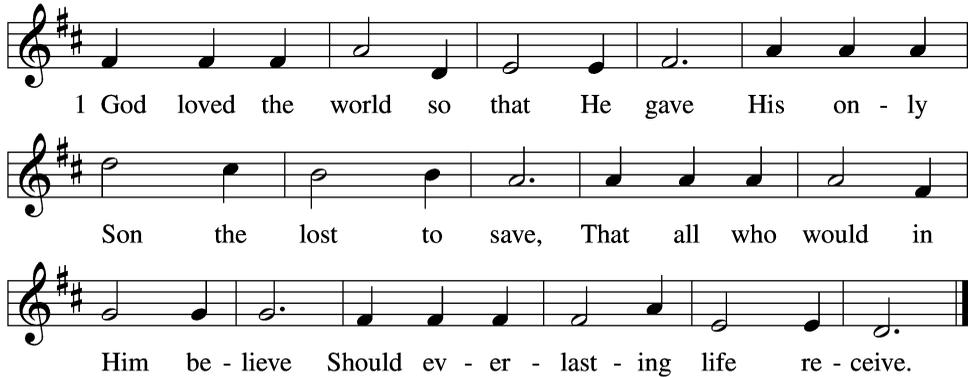
### **EPISTLE READING** 1 John 4:1–11

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN “God Loved the World So That He Gave”



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.

## HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1–8

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

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

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY #633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”** Sts. 1–2, 4, 8



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal  
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love  
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

**SERMON “Test The Spirits” 1 John 4:1-11**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will 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.**

## 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** *[petitions...]* 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.**

## 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 161

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

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

### 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.**

### PAX DOMINI

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

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI LSB 210

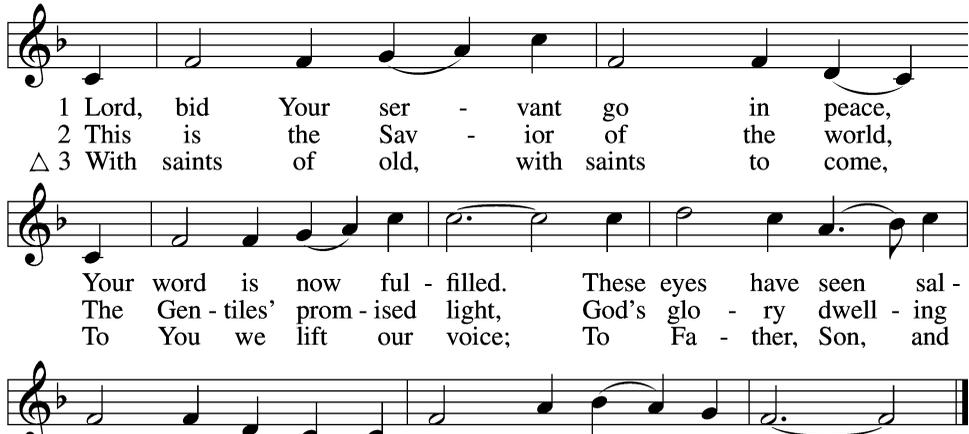
**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 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.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**#770 What A Friend #570 Just As I Am #725 Children of the Heavenly Father**  
(led by Jean Anderson & Hap Stuart – Please Sing with Us)

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and  
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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## 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

**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.

## CLOSING HYMN #691 “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

**Altar Flowers today are given by Maggie Halterman in memory of her husband, George**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
POSTLUDE**

+ + + + +

**PRAYER LIST:** Family of David Moody, died Wed. Apr. 28; Betty Zierke, healing; Pam Bean, rehab.; Bill Dalton, rehab.; Luella Anderson, cancer (mother of Kim Gohlinghorst), Harold Holtz, cancer treatments; Marcy West (Daughter-in-Law of DeAnn & Phillip West), cancer treatments; John Jamieson, cancer treatments; Deedee Halterman, lung cancer, sister-in-law of Maggie Halterman; Lyle Powelson, cancer; Tom Stettler, Southern Utah Veterans Home; the homebound.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Today	May 2	1:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance for George Halterman
Monday	May 3	10:00 a.m. MLC of MLC (women's group)
Wednesday	May 5	8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Casa
		11:00 a.m. Bible Study
		1-4 p.m. Ceramics

**BIRTHDAYS**

<b>5-4 Roger Crouch</b>	<b>5-5 Diana Powelson</b>	<b>5-7 Polly Stuhar</b>
<b>5-9 Judy Duncker</b>	<b>5-12 Brooke Helsten</b>	<b>5-14 Mike Ethington</b>
<b>5-16 Taralee Helsten</b>	<b>5-22 Jim Bean</b>	<b>5-23 Roger Camara</b>
<b>5-25 Scott VanLente</b>	<b>5-27 Mary Bollenbecker</b>	<b>5-28 Jean Anderson</b>

**ANNIVERSARIES**

<b>5-15 Lonnie &amp; Gayle Malwitz</b>	<b>5-18 Jim &amp; Patti Jones</b>
<b>5-21 Dennis &amp; Sandy Copeland</b>	<b>5-26 David &amp; Christine Constien</b>
<b>5-28 James &amp; Kathy Hammar</b>	

**Childcare Coin Jar Deposit 4-26-21 \$144.45**

**Acknowledgments**

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