



## Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and*

*we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

### GATHERING HYMN

ELW #696

*Jesus Calls Us; o're the Tumult*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #512

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

### COMMUNION HYMN

ELW #488

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

### SENDING HYMN

ELW #537

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

### FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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: Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup> down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup> fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup> tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup> yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The <sup>1</sup> LORD has acted!"

### SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.

<sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-----April 28, 2024**

**We welcome you** to Emmaus in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register at the back of the church in the narthex. Join us in fellowship downstairs after worship for Coffee Hour.

**Large print bulletins** and children’s bulletins (as well as crayons and storybooks) are available in the narthex.

**All are welcome** to participate in Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ, this day. Come, encounter the grace and love of God! For those not yet communing, you are invited forward to receive a blessing.

**There are eleven candidates** for the new Bishop of the New England Synod. Copies of the biographical information for each candidate are available in the narthex. Feel free to share with Tom and Amy what characteristics or who you would like to see as our new bishop.

**The Annual Yard Sale** is this Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and we need your help! First, you can drop off your gently used items (no clothes please) this week at church during office hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 8-3). Second, we need volunteers to help with set-up, working the day of, clean-up, and to provide Bake Sale items. Third, come to the event on Saturday and do some shopping! Please put some time aside this week to help Bob and Jencie Gerwig with the details. Let them know that you’re willing to lend a hand.

**The monthly Breakfast-for-All** will be served next Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at around 8:15 a.m. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast of eggs, toast, sausage, home fries, juice and coffee. Stay for worship where next week Pastor

Warren will be preaching. Then stay for Coffee Hour! Thank you to the Emmaus Men’s Group for growing this special ministry.

**The next Bean Supper** will take place on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, where Suanne will take us on an armchair tour of Australia and New Zealand aka the Down Under. You’ll visit the Outback, Milford Sound, learn the real story about kangaroos and kiwis and you won’t even have to cross the International Date Line to attend! Supper starts at 5:00 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex and let us know you’re coming.

**Proceeds from the Thankoffering for April** will go to our own Campership Fund to help send kids to summer camp at Camp Calumet. Registration is now open on the Calumet website offering 1- or 2-week programs in July and August. You will find all the registration forms and further details about summer camp on their website at:

<https://www.calumet.org/summercamp/residentcamp>

Make sure to let Secretary Beverly Lindahl know if your kid(s) plan to attend camp. If you’d like to contribute to the Campership Fund, make your check out to Emmaus and note “Thankoffering” in the memo line.

**The altar flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God in recognition of the hard work of our Call Committee.

**Rev. Warren Geier** is the Contact Pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church. You can reach Pastor Geier confidentially at the church office at (207) 781-4820 and leave a message.

**LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE:**

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.: 44

**ASSISTING THIS MORNING:**

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mary Beth Morris
Assisting	Vicar Amy Dunkelmann
Altar Guild	Dick Miller
Ushers	Bob Gerwig
Coffee Hour	Judy Katzell

**IN NEED OF PRAYER:** Steve, Karin, Dorothy, Jim, Louise, Bonnie, Patty, Gene, Jerry, Chuck, Babette and Bartholomew, Lindsey, Sylvia and DuWayne, Penny, Mike, Cathy and Jim, Kate, Karin, and Barb. We pray for those who grieve. We pray for all who are being persecuted for their faith expressions throughout the world. We pray for all who serve our country and work for peace.

Gathered by God,  
Forgiven in Christ,  
Nurtured by the Holy Spirit;  
A community of faith,  
Participating in God's grace,  
Sharing with all.

## Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our  
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the  
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice  
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"  
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake."  
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

## Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson  
 Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and

haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;  
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,

there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -

bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly.  
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let

high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
 un - to God the Sav - ior; thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879