

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. Service

Gathering Song: *ELW 380 “Hallelujah, Jesus Lives!”*

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,**

leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

**in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,**

like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.**

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.

**Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through

him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Pastor will begin a time of prayer. You are invited to add petitions to this time of prayer. You may end your petition: "Lord in your mercy." The congregation will respond: "Hear our prayer."

The Lord's Prayer and Communion

Sending Hymn: ELW 860 "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

Benediction and Dismissal

After the service, we kindly ask that you take this bulletin home with you, to help curb the spread of COVID-19.