



*“Fruitful Branches of the  
Vine Divine”*

*Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm*

*Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11:00 am*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY)  
(Traditional Service)**

**AS WE GATHER**

One agricultural crop that is becoming better known in our days is the grape. Grapevines are everywhere in America, from New York and Virginia on the East Coast to California and Washington on the West Coast. Driving by a vineyard and seeing row after row of flourishing vines is a visually pleasant experience. Jesus speaks to the disciples and us that He is the true vine and we are the branches. He says that God looks for us to be fruit-bearing as we are grafted into our life-giving Lord. Through our worship together, we are nourished in fruitfulness by the Holy Spirit.

**WE WELCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Epiphany Lutheran Church offers many resources and programs to help you and your children grow in your faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Quiet activity bags for your little ones are available on the coat tree outside the sanctuary doors. Our nursery has staffed personnel every Sunday from 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM. The nursery is not staffed on Saturday night, but still available for your use. Well children, ages infant to four (4) years, are welcome. Each Sunday morning worship service has a special children’s message, and we offer Sunday school, except for holidays, for ages 3-adult at 9:30 am. If you need assistance, please ask an usher or elder to direct you to the bathrooms, nursery, or classrooms.

*Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk (\*).*

**THE PRELUDE**

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”*

Laura Moes, Accompanist  
by Peter Scholtes

**ORGAN CHIME**

**THE WELCOME**

Pastor Chris Matthis

**+ PREPARATION +**

**\*INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

**\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **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.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

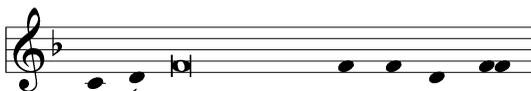
People: **Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**

LSB pg. 152



Pastor: **A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**People:** **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**Pastor:** **A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**People:** **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



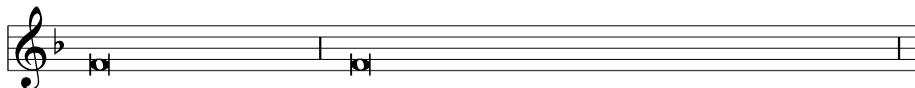
**Pastor:** **A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**People:** **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



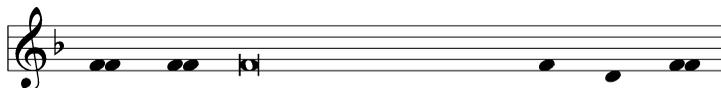
**Pastor:** **A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**People:** **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**Pastor:** **A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



People: **C** A - men.

**\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"Gloria in Excelsis"*

LSB pg. 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



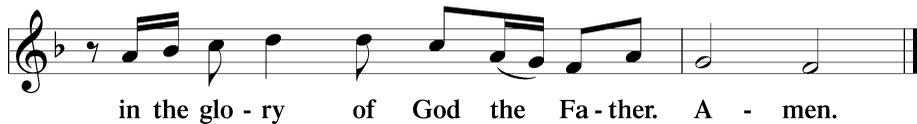
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



### **\*SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism, You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## + **WORD** +

### **FIRST READING**

*Acts 8:26-40*

(Pew Bible pg. 917)

*(Philip teaches and baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch.)*

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

*Psalm 150*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary;

**People: praise Him in His mighty heavens!**

Pastor: Praise Him for His mighty deeds;

**People: praise Him according to His excellent greatness!**

Pastor: Praise Him with trumpet sound;

**People: praise Him with lute and harp!**

Pastor: Praise Him with tambourine and dance;

**People; praise Him with strings and pipe!**

Pastor: Praise Him with sounding cymbals;

**People: praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

**People: Praise the LORD!**

△ **All: 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.**

## **SECOND READING**

*1 John 4:1-11*

(Pew Bible pg. 1023)

*(God is love)*

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. In this love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*ALLELUIA**

LSB pg. 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*HOLY GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

(Pew Bible pg. 901)

*(The Vine and the Branches)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



© Praise to You, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DCE Kristin Schmidt

## SERMON HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

LSB 955

## SERMON

Pastor Chris Matthis

## \*CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.**

## OFFERING

“Meditation”

by Caleb Simper/arr. by Michael Ryan

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.epiphanylc.org](http://www.epiphanylc.org) and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.*



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

## RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

### \*GRADUATION BLESSING/PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God, heavenly Father, Your Word teaches that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...” (Proverbs 1:7). As the Creator of all things, You are the source of all true knowledge. Therefore, we ask You to bless all graduates with godly wisdom, strength of character, and zeal for service to nation, community, church, and family. Empower and equip all graduates by Your Holy Spirit to use their gifts and talents to Your glory and the benefit of their neighbor. Reveal the plans You have for them, “plans for welfare and not for evil, to give [them] a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). Above all, grant them Your grace. We ask this and all things in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition is read Pastor says, “Let us pray to the Lord,” and Congregation responds with, “Lord, have mercy.”*

### \*LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**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.**

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless You and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
*Numbers 6:24-26*

People: **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*“How Can I Thank You, Lord”*

LSB 703

### POSTLUDE

*“Triptych III: Postlude”*

by Gerhard Krapf

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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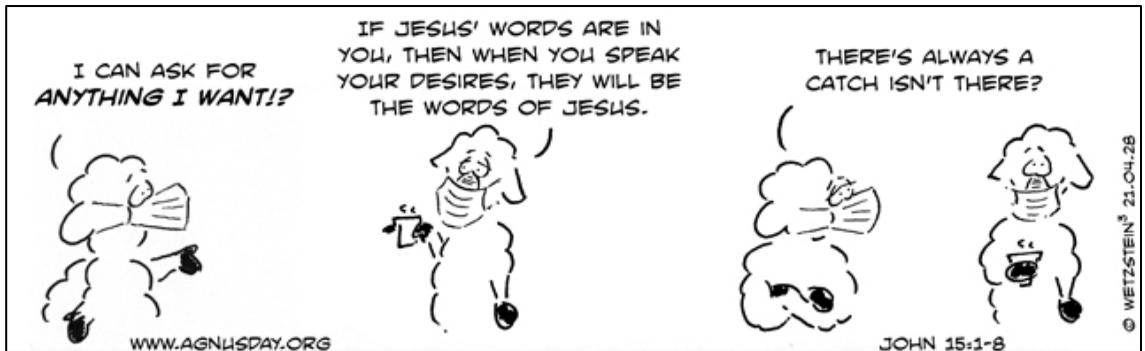
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## STEWARDSHIP VERSE

In evaluating our giving, we should plan for a short life.

“Teach us to number our days,  
that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

## CARTOON OF THE WEEK



## SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEKEND

(May 1-2, 2021)

**Readings:** *(First Reading)* Acts 8:26-40    *(Psalm)* Psalm 150  
*(Second Reading)* 1 John 4:1-11    *(Holy Gospel)* John 15:1-8

	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>
<b>Preacher</b>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
<b>Elders</b>	<i>Todd Rychecky</i>	<i>Richard Rath</i>	<i>Larry Drees</i>
<b>Accompanist</b>	<i>Laura Moes</i>	<i>Praise Team</i>	<i>Laura Moes</i>
<b>Sound System</b>	<i>Kirk Anderson</i>	<i>Kirk Anderson</i>	
<b>Video</b>	<i>Casey Burnham</i>	<i>Casey Burnham</i>	<i>Casey Burnham</i>
<b>Acolytes</b>	<i>Shawn Clark</i>	<i>Thomas Sprankle</i>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Karen Engebretson</i>		
<b>Children's Message</b>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>
<b>Nursery</b>		<i>Ev Dawson</i>	<i>Ev Dawson</i>
<b>Greeters</b>			
<b>Lectors</b>	<i>Karen Engebretson</i>	<i>Noye Balmer</i>	<i>Laura Hefta</i>
<b>Snacks</b>	<i>Audrey Olson</i>		<i>Marcy Pore</i>
<b>Ushers</b>		<i>Marcia Hood, Todd Rychecky</i>	<i>Larry Drees, Don Gilbreath</i>



### Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

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Website: [www.epiphanylc.org](http://www.epiphanylc.org)

ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

[pastorchrist@epiphanylc.org](mailto:pastorchrist@epiphanylc.org)

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

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Mrs. Donata Rolf + [office@epiphanylc.org](mailto:office@epiphanylc.org) + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + [choir@epiphanylc.org](mailto:choir@epiphanylc.org)

Ms. Debbie Stewart, Accounting Specialist + [accounting@epiphanylc.org](mailto:accounting@epiphanylc.org)



Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

*"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"*