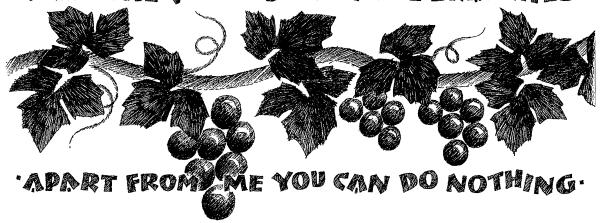
· I am the vine · You are the Branches ·



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church † Northfield, Minnesota

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

As we enter a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to follow CDC guidelines for public gatherings. We feel the different impacts of this time on our community and long for a time when we will be able to safely share in Holy Communion indoors, and to socialize without concern for public health. Whether this morning finds you in the sanctuary or joining in worship from home, please know that this is not our "new normal," but a time of gradually learning how to be together in-person while we wait for more vaccinations and fewer COVID infections in our community.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.

+ + +

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — on Earth and all Stars

Sally Drennan Mossing

Welcome and Announcements

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **©** Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!



Text: Herbert Brokering © 1995 Augsburg Fortress; Music: David N. Johnson © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

P 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.

C Amen.

*Baptism Acclamation — "You Have Put On Christ" (#211) You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap - tized. Al - le - lu - ia, Text: International Commission on English in the Liturgy © 1969; Music: Howard Hughes © 1977

*Prayer of the Day

- P 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.
- C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. 40 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.

■ The word of the Lord. ■ Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 22:25-30

Antiphon: All of us go down to the dust, yet even in the grave we make our song: Alleluia!

Antiphon: Mark Mummert



²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who \mid fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come. Antiphon

Second 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. "Beloved, 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.

■ The word of the Lord. ■ Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation (#174)



*Gospel — John 15:1-8

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15thchapter.
- **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it

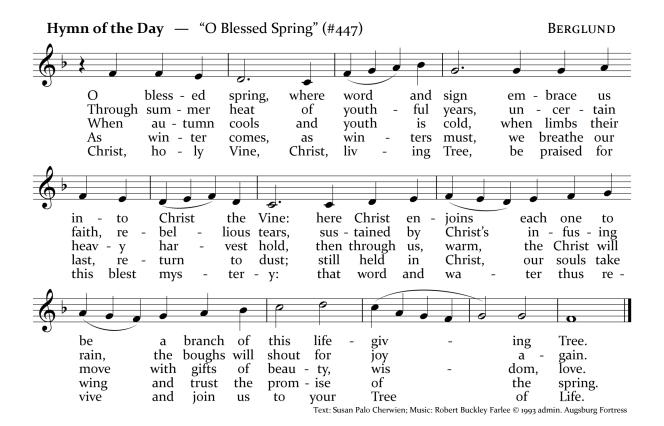
abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into 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."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- **©** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Peder Lindell and Stefany Perez

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD



*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- L Lord, in your mercy,
- hear our prayer.

*Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **Q** And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"Hymn of Promise"

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

*Thanksgiving for the Word

- Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, proclaiming freedom from captivity, becoming the song of your people.
- **©** We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your Word is made flesh among us:

with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.

With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.

Your Word names our death and our life.

Q We bless you, O God, for your Word.

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action. With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, we join in the hymn of all creation:

2 We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

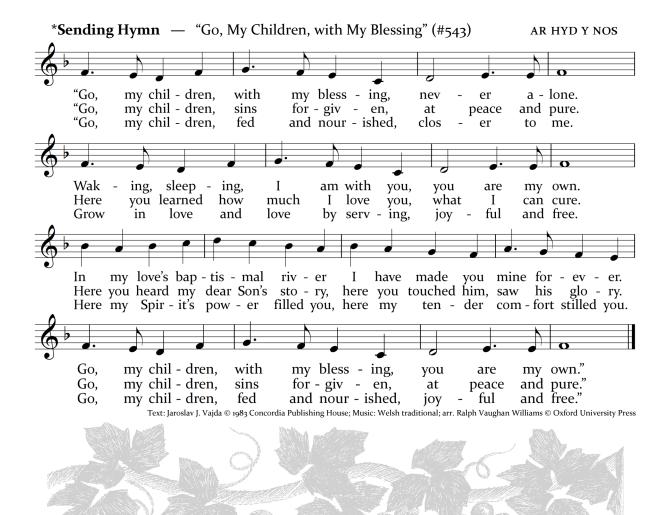
DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Blessing and Sending of High School Seniors

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.



*Dismissal

- L Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
- **L** Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection.
- **☑** Thanks be to God!

Postlude — Allegretto from Op. 101

Charles Villiers Stanford

+ + +

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis

Preaching Peder Lindell, Stefany Perez

Assisting Ministers Erica Loe, Jaida Gehring, Mia Becker, Elsa Nystrom

Organist Nathan Proctor
Cantor David Sims

Ushers Dale Gehring, Monica Holicky, Tamara Jackman, Rob Nutt

Congratulations to Our Graduating High School Seniors!

Amelia Becker, Nicholas Boehning, Clayton Garlie, Jaida Gehring, Will Knutson, Kai Legvold, Peder Lindell, Ethan Little, Erica Loe, Kaylee Malecha, Elsa Nystrom, Stefany Perez, Carl Welbaum

We are proud of all of their accomplishments and wish them grace and peace for their journeys ahead.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image by Judy Swanson.

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Cindy Clauson. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Next available dates: August 1, 8 & 15. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

In-Person Worship Sign-Ups

We are now inviting all vaccinated persons or those who have recovered from COVID-19 to sign up to attend one in-person worship in our sanctuary on either May 16, May 23 or May 30. More slots may be opened up in the weeks ahead, but for now, we ask you to make sure there is room for others who also want to be in worship by only signing up for one Sunday. More information about our plans for in-person worship can be found on the FAQ page at our website: StlohnsNorthfield.org. Sign-ups are available using the link in the E-Voice or by calling the church office.

Habitat for Humanity of Rice County Faith Build Groundbreaking Event Today, 4:00 p.m., at 2444 Cotton Lane

All are invited to the groundbreaking celebration of a Northfield Quad. A food truck with cheese curds and mini donuts will be on site, too. Please RSVP at habitatricecounty.org. Opportunities to volunteer at the build site later this summer will be opening up in the near future.

Outdoor Afternoon Coffee and Communion Wednesdays, May 5 & 19, 2:00 p.m., Courtyard

The Adult Ministry & Education Board will host outdoor church coffee and communion. As a first step to reintroducing face-to-face fellowship, the gatherings will be limited to 24 people. Please bring your own coffee or tea, and wear a mask. The Adult Ministry & Education Board will set up appropriately spaced chairs in the courtyard. After catching up a bit over coffee, Pastor Pam or Pastor Jonathan will lead communion. You can sign up for one of the coffee and communion events on Sign-Up Genius (the link can be found in the E-Voice). Coffee and communion will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

Courageous Conversations' May Program via Zoom Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

The May Courageous Conversations program will present Professor Jennifer Kwon Dobbs. The St. Olaf associate professor of English/creative writing and program director of Race and Ethnic Studies, will speak on "And Still We Rise: Against Anti-Asian/AAPI Hate." Register at: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/Courageous.

Announcements (continued)

Church Grounds Spring Clean-Up Saturday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.-noon

Volunteers are needed to help beautify our property for the spring and summer. Bring your rakes and shovels. We appreciate your help!

American Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, May 10, 1:00-6:00 p.m.

We will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter St. John's Northfield to schedule an appointment.

Worship and Ecology: A Reading and Experiential Journey

This summer Pastor Pam will be leading a reading group and series of events based on deepening our connection between worship and the earth. Each session will consist of a Zoom discussion of Ben Stewart's "A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology," followed (on a different day) by an outdoor experience connecting some of the elements of worship—water, light, bread, soil—with real world ecology. Each experience can be done by itself or as a series. Check the E-Voice for the link to order the book and express interest.

Lutheran World Relief May Fund Appeal

Needs around the world continue even as the pandemic abates in some areas. Lutheran World Relief is spreading help and hope. Here is one story of need:

• Elsa was just a child when her entire village in Honduras was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Today Elsa is 30 and has three young daughters. When back-to-back storms Eta and lota swept through her village last fall, they brought a level of devastation that Elsa and her neighbors had hoped they'd never see again. With the impact of COVID-19 on top of the hurricanes' destruction, families have no idea how they'll feed their children or pay their bills.

Elsa's story is one among many. With a donation to Lutheran World Relief, we can help. Please consider an online donation or use the special offering envelope provided. Thank you.

Holden Village is Opening Registration for Late Summer 2021

Pastor Pam and some St. John's members are planning to visit the week of August 15. Because registration is limited and conducted online, those who are interested are urged to register themselves as soon as possible. Much more information about Holden's guest plans can be found at: http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/guest-rates/

Recordings of WELCA's Courageous Conversations

Resisting Racism can be found on the St. John's Women Home page in the Programs section. Recordings include Race Matters in Health Care and Race Matters in Education. We invite and encourage you to listen to these powerful, insightful discussions.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Marilyn Boschee, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Andy and Izzie Nelson, Susan Rudser

Those with ongoing health concerns

Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson,

Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson,

Howard Thorsheim, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Lois Rand, Dorothy Ostlie, Lyla Arneson Paulson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

lambi Lutheran Church in lambi, Tanzania;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (May 9):

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 + Psalm 98 + 1 John 5:1-6 + John 15:9-17

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).

Monday, May 3 12:00 p.m. Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom

Tuesday, May 4 9:00 a.m. Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Retreat, Offsite

1:00 p.m. Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom

Wednesday, May 5 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break

2:00 p.m. Outdoor Coffee and Communion, Church Courtyard

6:00 p.m. Confirmation for Grades 6-9 via Zoom

Thursday, May 6 No Scheduled Activities

Friday, May 7 No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, May 8 8:00 a.m. Spring Clean-Up at St. John's

10:00 a.m. CAT for Grades 4 and 5, Outside at St. John's

Sunday, May 9 9:00 a.m. Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream







500 Third Street West Northfield, MN 55057 507-645-4429 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir
Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry
Tim Byers, Facility Manager
Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager
Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator
Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator
Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families
Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse
Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir
Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants
Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.