

Holy Gospel ~ John 15:1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

First Reading ~ Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south* to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

Second Reading ~ 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Welcome to Worship at Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021



Gathering

Confession & Forgiveness		page 94
Opening Hymn	<i>"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"</i>	# 858
Greeting		page 147
Kyrie (spoken)		page 147
Prayer of the Day		
P: Let us pray,		
C: 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 hear 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.		

Word

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22 (*read responsively*)

R: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

R: May your hearts live for ever!

C: All the ends of the earth shall remember; and turn to the LORD;

R: and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

R: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

C: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

R: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

C: and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

All: Glory 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 4:7-21

Gospel Acclamation (spoken) "Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?" page 151

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Sermon

Pastor Luther Mathsen

Sermon Hymn

"Borning Cry"

732

Rite of Confirmation (HP)

page 234

Nicene Creed (E)

page 104

Prayers of the People

Offering

Meal

The Great Thanksgiving (Spoken)

Preface

page 152

Sanctus

page 153

Eucharistic Prayer

Lamb of God

page 154

Distribution

"Lord of all Hopefulness"

765

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Sending

Recessional Hymn

"O Christ the Same"

760

Sending

P: Go in peace. To Love and Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Luther Mathsen

Highland Prairie:

Acolytes: Kenna Gudmundson, Lindsey Hoiness

Readers: Kenna Gudmundson, Sylvia Passow

Greeters: Lyle & Ann Meldahl

Organist: Martha Stensgard, Karen Bakken

Elstad:

Acolyte: Sari Rein

Readers: Miley Knutson, Carolyn Smith

Organist: Julie Dragvold

Ushers: Larry Topness, Dick Haight, Philip

Abrahamson, John Rein,

Adam Daniels, Robert Knutson