



I am the vine,
you are the branches

JOHN 15:5

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

The 10:30 AM Liturgy is live streamed. Please be aware that conversations are all audible to those viewing from home.

We are not relaxing our guidelines at this time. Please remain diligent.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required inside,

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered.

Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at

www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave:

Please wear your mask. *Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family.*

We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 2, 2021
Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

McNeil Robinson

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Let us pray,

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your
promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for
the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*During the sprinkling with water, ELW #215 "Blessed be God Who Chose You",
will be sung 4 times; first by the Cantor, then Women, Men and All*



Bless-ed be God, who chose you in Christ.



Live in love as Christ loved us.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sung by the cantor. People join at



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



PRAAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.

Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

Spoken responsively by half verse.

²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | LORD shall praise him:*

"May your heart | live forever!"

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*

and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.

²⁷ For kingship belongs | to the LORD;*

he rules o- | ver the nations.

- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;*
all who go down to the dust | fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;*
they shall be known as the | LORD's forever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn*
the saving deeds that | he has done.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to **St. John.**

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before
God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Let us pray.

A brief silence.

Lord God, you abide in us and we abide in you. Cleanse us by your word and give the
whole church on earth the desire to bear fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O
God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. Help us recognize the connections among
all that depend on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth the desire to lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You love us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Keep us in union with those who have gone before us and bring us all to that day when we will abide in the fullness of your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

DIALOGUE

Sung by Pastor/congregation

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The preface appropriate to the day is sung.

SANCTUS

Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. C Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,

and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI *Sung by cantor*

Sit *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

COMMUNION CANTICLE *Congregation sings refrain Cantor sings stanzas*

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

REFRAIN

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

REFRAIN

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Amen

REFRAIN

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

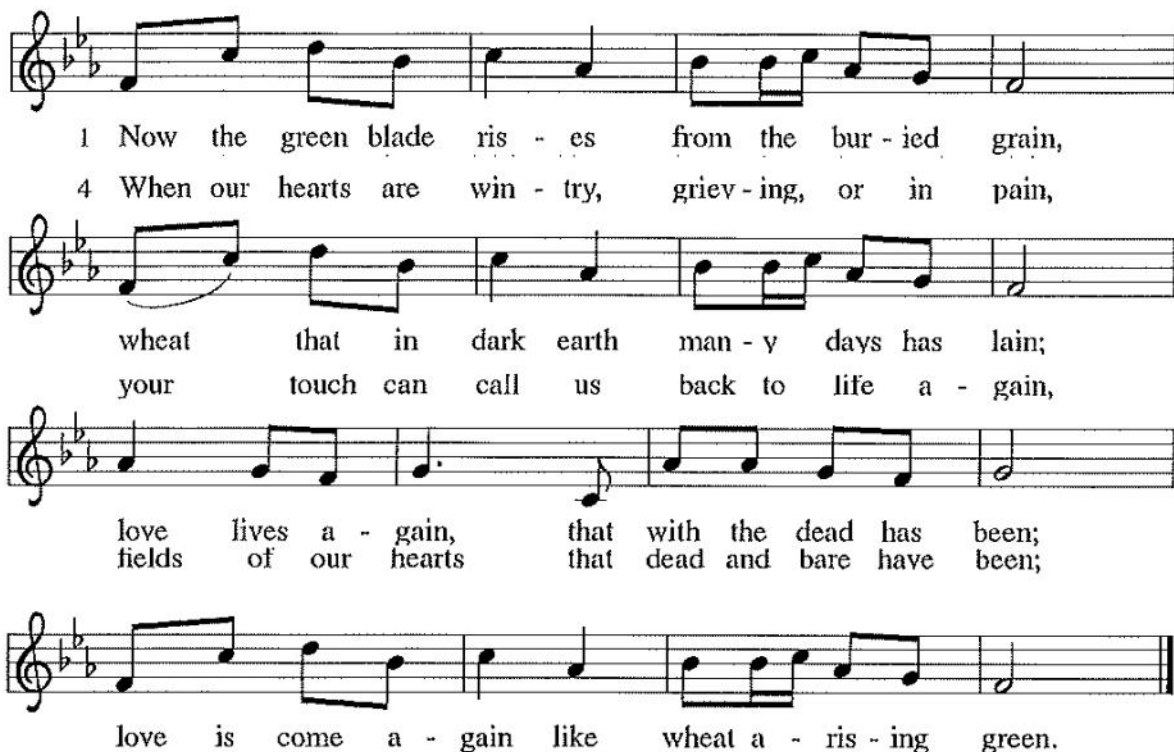
Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises (LBW 148) stanzas 1&4



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,
wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Blessed be the Tie that Binds

Libby Larsen

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*Please...be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.
...feel free to gather outside for conversation.
...take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated indoors at 8:00 AM and outdoors at 10:30 AM.
Remember to bring a lawn chair. Please plan accordingly for Sunday, May 23.

In our prayers we remember...

Tonya Cave, Sandy Beaverson, Blake Courtney, Chuck Oelsner, Chas Ebling, Mogan Lanza-lotti, Courtney Snell, Sharon Cox, Larry Moore, Joanne Schiding, Jessica Arnold, Wade & Deanna Patterson, Dante Fuligini, Alyuson Bucks, Delores Sergent, Betty Mehring, Drew Herd-son, Kristine Gross, and Porter Stacey

Food Pantry—May

Items needed: Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
by Jim and Nancy Bennett.*

Altar Flowers will once again be gracing our worship space now that Lent has passed. The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

This Week at St. Paul's May 2-May 9

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

Sunday, May 2

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting—Community Rm

Monday, May 3

6:30 PM Scout Leaders—ZOOM
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting— ZOOM

Tuesday, May 4

9:30 AM Food Pantry

Wednesday, May 5

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Recognition of Graduates for the June issue of "Our Church" newsletter. Please provide the church office with the graduation information of our faith community members who mark this important time in their lives. We ask for: name, institution, degree, date of the event and future plans. Thank you.



Wednesday Bible Study

The Book of Acts

Wednesday Bible Study is held at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. During the season of Easter the first reading each Sunday is from the book of Acts. We will spend a portion of our time together gaining greater insight into the book of Acts while still spending time reflecting on the Easter gospel readings. The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the narrative of the Gospel according to Luke. The book of Acts can be divided into two large portions. The first portion centers on Peter and deals with the early church in Jerusalem in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. The second portion centers on Paul and deals with his three missionary journeys and the expansion of the message of Christ crucified, raised and ascended. These readings direct our Sunday worship during this joyous season of Easter with a dual focus on the good news that God has raised Jesus from death to life and in our missionary effort to tell and share the good news with others here and around the world. Please bring your Bible and join us!

STAFF

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The uniform identified him as a museum guide. The classic dark blue blazer, red piping, and family crest emblazon on the breast pocket were all telling signs. He waited with patience as the next group formed in the rotunda before leading the journey through the appointed sections of the museum. The museum's vast foot print and priceless treasure could be best viewed with the assistance of a guide. The most notable treasures on display, the things that you would not want to miss viewing, were best experienced with the knowledge of a guide.

Such situations translate easily from national galleries of art and natural history to working museums like that of Colonial Williamsburg. In working museums like Colonial Williamsburg you are able to interact with the guides, ask questions, inquire more deeply about the story behind the object, the story behind the story being told, or the story behind the historical figure in question.

Similarly guides prove to be an important element in national park settings, cave exploration, and wilderness adventures. Guides in those situations will not only point out breath taking aspects of the park, cave, or wilderness but also can be lifesaving for the participant. "Stay away from that cliff." "Make certain your equipment is in proper working condition." "Watch out for Grizzly Bears this time of year!"

Philip isn't wearing a classic dark blue blazer with red piping sporting the Disciples of Jesus family crest on the breast pocket when he encounters the man from Ethiopia. No one warned him about wilderness roads, translating the scriptures, or freighting situations he might encounter. Philip has had some positive experiences in guiding some Samaritans to understanding the word of God and even guiding them to the waters of baptism earlier in the first part of chapter 8. But guiding a powerful court official, one in charge of Queen Candace's treasury, in understanding the prophet Isaiah was not part of the brief from the angelic messenger.

A guide is needed this morning. A critical moment arises when the Ethiopian is reading from the text of the Prophet Isaiah, what we know as chapter 53. Philip inquires if he understands what he is reading. The response from the man seated in a chariot reading from the scroll of the prophet, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" The text doesn't indicate how the Ethiopian recognized Philip as a guide. He certainly wasn't sporting the blazer with piping and crest. We know him as an Apostle, an eye witness of the resurrection. For some reason the man on the wilderness road recognizes Philip as a guide, as one who could tell him about the story behind the story, about the treasure that is being made known through a story about a lamb being slaughtered. This is the place where a guide is needed, and that is precisely what the Ethiopian asks of Philip. It is the story within the story that advances the story of God's extravagant love for all people.

Philip moves from his role as Apostle, one who witnessed the resurrected Lord, to a role of evangelist, one who is opening, telling, and sharing the good news of Jesus! Riding along together on a wilderness road they come across some water. And the Ethiopian man, a person of different race, a person of higher social status, a person of different culture, exclaims to Philip when he sees some water along the road "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" The chariot comes to an abrupt halt and both of them went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. And that

is the end of the guided portion of the journey for the Ethiopian. The Spirit of the Lord snatches Philip away and he lands in a new region as guide for a new community. And the newly baptized man, he went away from the guided portion of his journey rejoicing.

We are part of God's story of life and salvation. We are welcomed into the family of God through baptism into Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. We aren't sporting dark blue blazers with red piping and the Disciples of Jesus family crest on the breast pocket to make it easy to identify us as guides. But we are called to be guides in faith and life for all who don't know what story the scriptures proclaim. We are entrusted with the story within the story that advances the story of God's extravagant love for all people.

There are scriptures to teach, prayers to pass on, and commandments for us to live by. There are liturgies to attend and sacraments to sustain us. There is love to undergird us, not only the kind of love represented by our faith community here today, but the steadfast love of God, the selfless love modeled to us by Christ, the love that is given in that new commandment "That we have love for one another."

Guide is what Philip proved to be to the Ethiopian man in the story from Acts. Guide is what we are as we share the story of God's love. We guide people to see and hear and make sense of the Priceless Treasure, Christ Jesus. We guide people away from the dangers of life; the proverbial treacherous cliffs, faulty equipment, ravenous beasts that comprise life's journey. We guide people toward the Priceless Treasure, Christ Jesus, using the tools of scripture, sacraments, catechism, creed, and confessional writings. We guide those new to the faith. And we guide those who are well seasoned.

It is easy to lose our way, to get off of the right path, to head in a direction that takes us away from the one that we do not want to miss seeing, hearing, experiencing, or being in his presence. Would that we all had the easily identifiable classic dark blue blazer with red piping and the Disciples of Jesus family crest emblazon on the breast pocket. Instead we wear the identifying sign of the cross emblazoned on us in baptism, and traced over and over again through faith's journey. That cross tells the story within the story of God's extravagant love for you and for all people. You may not be invited to sit in a chariot, ride along a wilderness road, be in the presence of a court official or someone from an exotic place. But as a baptized child of God know that at any time you may be called to; venture into the unknown, sit with a stranger, converse in a language other than your own, discuss biblical texts and questions about who can be baptized. As guide, your calling may very well be lifesaving.

Philip simply asked a question. "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man in the chariot replied "How can I, unless someone guides me?" Philip's role as Apostle, one witnessing the resurrected Lord, shifts to the role of evangelist, one opening, telling, and sharing the good news of Jesus! The Priceless Treasure is best beheld with the assistance of a guide.

If this were a celebrity TV talk show and I was host, This would be the moment when I would ask you to look under your seat where you would each find, a dark blue blazer with red piping and the Disciples of Jesus family crest emblazon on the breast pocket. Put it on and wear it with confidence. Guide people to the life-giving treasure we know in Christ. Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

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.) 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 ²⁸and 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. ⁴⁰But 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 22:25-31**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. 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: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] "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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R