

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 29 & May 2, 2021

*Faith believes God's Word and puts that Word to work.*

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**Opening Hymn** ..... 283, "Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening"

**Order of Service**..... Common Service, Page 15

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### FIRST LESSON

**Psalm of the Day**.....Psalm 67 (page 91)

### SECOND LESSON

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. *I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.* Alleluia.

**Response to the Verse** ..... Page 18

### GOSPEL LESSON

**Nicene Creed** ..... Page 18-19

**Hymn of the Day** ..... 385, "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

**SERMON**..... "Love Knows No Limits" 1 John 3:16-20

**Communion Liturgy** ..... Page 21

**Communion Hymn (OMITTED)**

**Closing Liturgy** ..... Page 25

**Closing Hymn** ..... 326, "May the Grace of Christ Our Savior"

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### FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

**Philip shared the message of the Lord's victory with the Ethiopian eunuch. Sharing Christ with others is an important fruit of faith.**

*Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is an isolated area.) So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit told Philip, "Go over there and stay close to that chariot." Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the*

*passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will talk about his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. The eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?" Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. As they were traveling along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me from being baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, found himself at Azotus. And as he went from place to place, he preached the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

### SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:18-24

**God wants us to believe in Jesus and to love one another. The Spirit, as he gives us the power to do both, assures us of our standing with God.**

*Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.*

### GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:1-8

**The evidence of faith in Christ is a life of deeds of love. Those "fruits" grow out of our fellowship with Christ, and they mark us as his disciples.**

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit. "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION:** Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

**HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK:** Mike Pamperin/Dean Ebert; next week: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart.

**ANNUAL GROUNDS INSPECTION:** All church council members are reminded that our annual grounds inspection will take place at the **Wednesday (May 12)** council meeting. This meeting will begin at **6:30 PM!**

**\*\*\*ELDERS**—please be reminded that your meeting will begin at **6:00 PM** that evening.

**THE EXAMINATION** of this year's eighth grade confirmation class will take place next **Sunday, May 9**. They will be confirmed at the **Sunday, May 16**, worship service. This year's confirmands are: Miranda Giese, Emma Heckel, Alex Kuehl, Morgan Manning, Drake Oshefsky, and Adam Zellmer.

In addition, Madison Boeck and Mason Gerth will also be confirmed at the May 16 worship service. Madison and Mason have studied the Christian faith with Pastors Drake, Kesting, and Mose through the Trinity Community Center and will be examined privately at the TCC.

**ALTAR OFFERING:** This year's altar offering will be taken on **Thursday, May 13**, and **Sunday, May 16**. The money received has been designated as follows: 100% to the church budget. Please look for the special envelope marked **Altar Offering** in your envelope packets.

**WALL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT:** Our school will be hosting this year's WALL Softball Tournament on **Friday-Saturday, May 7-8**, at the Iron Ridge Firemen's Park. Games begin on **Friday** at **6:00 PM** and on **Saturday** at **9:00 AM**. St. Matthew's first game is at **9:00 AM** on **Saturday**. All are invited and encouraged to come down and cheer our team on as well as enjoy the concessions which will be served throughout the tournament. If you would be interested in helping in any way (i.e. working concessions, grilling, providing donations, setting up, cleaning up), please speak with Kevin Lorge as soon as possible. We need all the help we can get with this big of an endeavor!

**LOOKING FOR ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS!** Our Altar Guild Committee is down to just four members, so we are looking for some additional volunteers. The Altar Guild is responsible for helping to set up communion and taking care of the paraments on the altar. If this is something you would be interested in learning more about or would be willing to help with, please speak with Pastor Mose or Diane Koch today! Thank you!

**WE THANK** the students in 4K/5K for their wonderful song on Sunday!

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Thursday: 20; Sunday: 86

**Offerings:** \$5,021.00      **Tuition:** \$1,507.50      **4K Tuition:** \$136.85

*(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,052.00)*

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$120.00

## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service ..... 9:00 AM  
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM

Thursday: Worship Service ..... 7:00 PM  
Adult Choir ..... 8:00 PM

Sunday: Worship Service (**Examination Sunday**)..... 9:00 AM  
**MOTHER'S DAY**