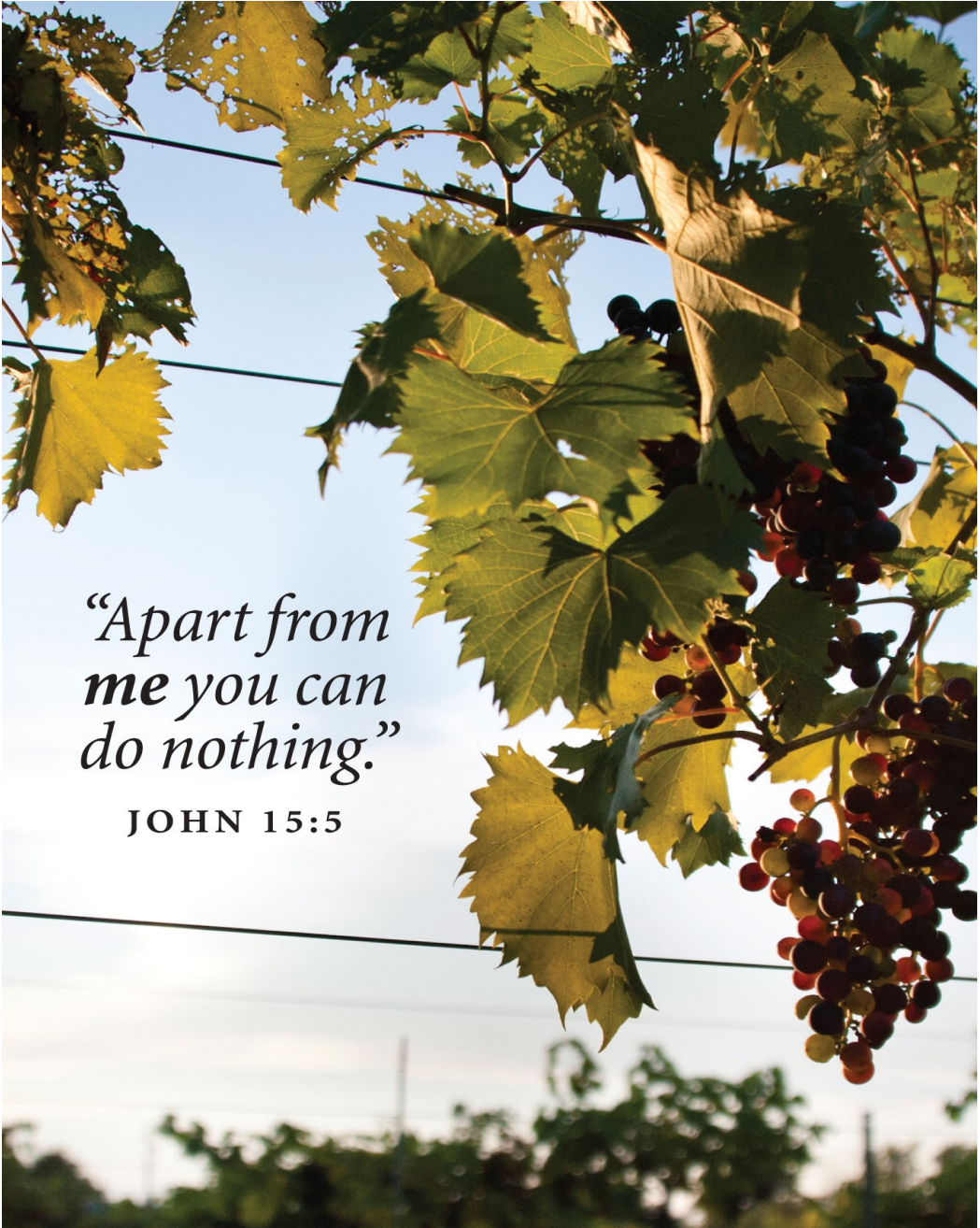


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



*“Apart from
me you can
do nothing.”*

JOHN 15:5

6 p.m. Sat., May 1, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 2, 2021
Sermon: “Are you connected?” John 15:1-8



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(6 p.m. Sat., May 1 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 2, 2021)

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat. Mabel Huldeen; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Steven Segebart

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Elders: 6 p.m. Sat. Don Lantis; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Robert Greene

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat. Marlis Hilden ; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Doug Lehr

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE ONE

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(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

LSB 474

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11*

P: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C: **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

P: Taste and see that the LORD is good!

C: **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

P: O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

C: **In wisdom have You made them all.**

P: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

C: **may the LORD rejoice in His works**

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C: **Amen.**

Service of the Word

The Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" (*Sung*)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

This is the Feast (*Sung*)

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(Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¹ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain)

² Power, riches, wisdom, and strength and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (Refrain)

³ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

⁴ Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (Refrain)

⁵ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

(Final Refrain) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.** (*Sung*)

P: Let us pray.

C: **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. Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

<p>²⁶Now 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. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who</p>	<p>was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet</p>
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and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth,

and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?"

³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

C: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

The Epistle Lesson 1 John 4:1–11 (An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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.

⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹In 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. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse *Romans 6:9, John 14:23*

C: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel John 15:1–8

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*Sung*)

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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.

⁵I 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. ⁶If 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.

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*Sung*)

(Please be seated)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day “O Blessed Spring”

LSB 595

Sermon “Are you connected?” John 15:1-8

The Nicene Creed

The Prayer of the Church

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend Carol Draube, Brandi Beller, Loes Abbe, Carolyn Stuhr, and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Remember those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Marge Delzell, Natalie Schulz, Jackson Haller, Karen Baker, Jennifer Grauer, Linda Dittman and Wilma Siefker. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Luke 12:48b—Everyone to whom much was given, of hi much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Offertory Hymn "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" LSB 691

(stand as you are able)

Offertory (Sung) *Psalm 116: 12-13, 17-19*

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (Sung)

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P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" (Sung) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

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Words of our Lord

Pax Domini The Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

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P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

Agnus Dei “Lamb of God” (*Sung*) *John 1:29*

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” LSB 845

(Stand as you are able)

The Post Communion Collect

Page 166

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.** (*sung*)

The Closing Hymn “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

LSB 919

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + +

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“Are you connected?”

Text: John 15:1–8

Date: 05/02/21

Verse to Remember:

Jesus said, “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.” John 15:4

Points to Ponder:

1. Are you connected? What are you connected to?

2. What does “abide” mean?

3. What does abide in Jesus mean?

4. What are the challenges of staying connected?

5. From tank to conduit