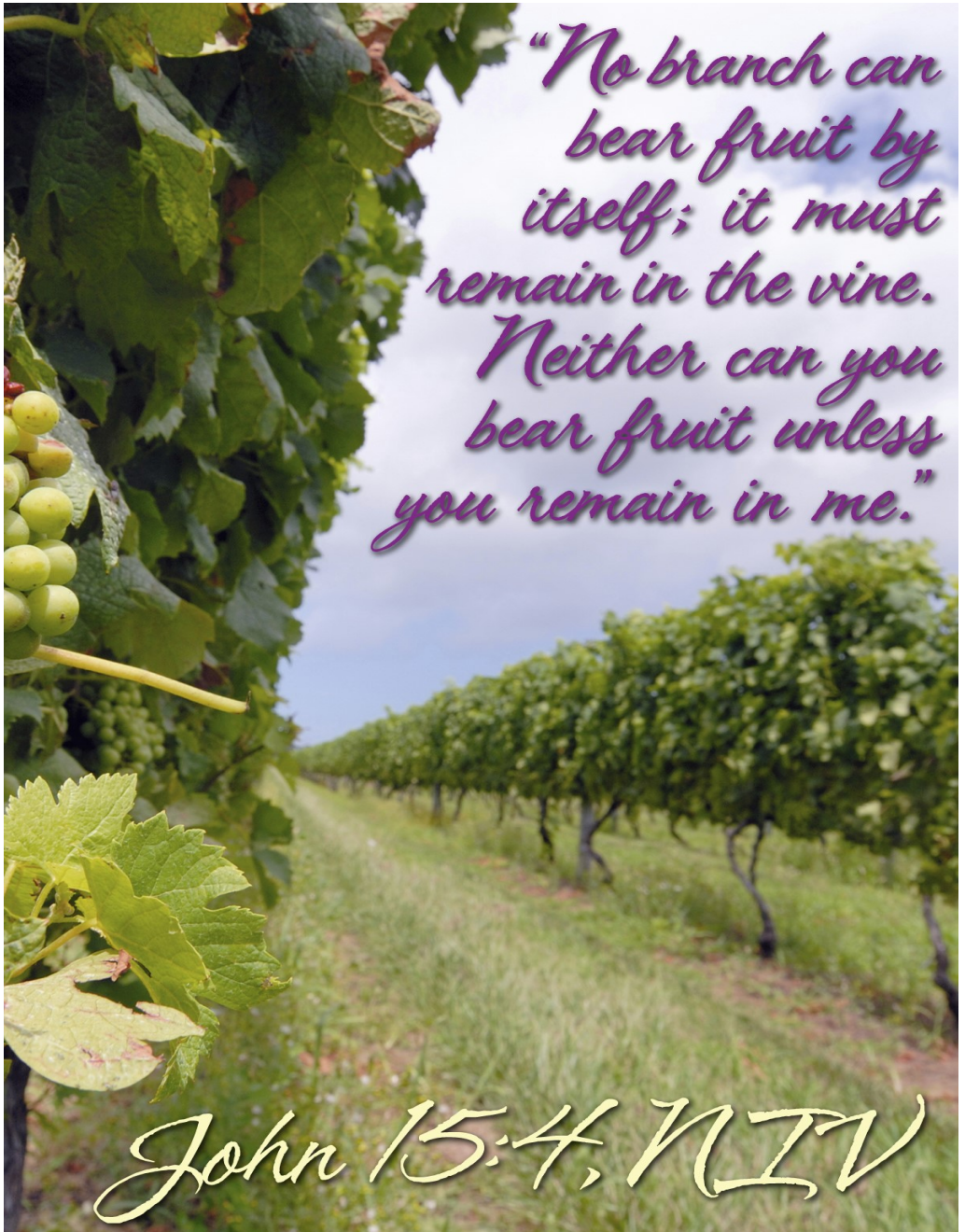


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcityspauls.org](http://www.siouxcityspauls.org)



10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 2, 2021  
Sermon: "Fruitful Branches of the Vine Divine" 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*

10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 2, 2021

### **Servants of God's House Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

**Elders:** Tim Draube **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

**Ushers:** Mike Popken Team

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

**Reader:** Frank Tenuta

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**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.

### **Worship Service**

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

**The Ringing of the Bells**

**The Wave of Fellowship**

## 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**

## Opening Song “Our God”

Water you turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind.

There's no one like You, none like You.

Into darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.

There's no one like You, none like You.

Chorus:

Our God is greater, our God is stronger.

God, You are higher than any other.

Our God is Healer, awesome in power. Our God, our God.

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what could stand against? (repeat chorus)

(Words/Music by Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, arr. By Carol Tornquist, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

## First Lesson Acts 8:26–40 (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

<sup>26</sup>Now 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. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And 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?"

<sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We 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.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

<sup>9</sup>In 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. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

## **Holy Gospel**

John 15:1–8

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

<sup>2</sup>Every 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. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>If 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. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

<sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and

## Children's Message

**My Faith Journey**— Cameron Black, Reagan Granstrom, Emma Sparr.

### The Song of Instruction      “Only By Grace”

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand, not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us, You call us to come,  
into your presence you draw us and now by your grace we come.  
Now by your grace we come.

Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?  
But thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.  
Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?  
But Father, thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand,  
not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us. You call us to come,  
Into Your presence You draw us and now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come. (Words & music by Gerrit Gustafson, 1990  
Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

**The Word**                      “Are you Connected?” John 15:1-8

### WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

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      “How Great Is Our God”**

### **Verse 1**

The splendor of the King, Clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

### **Chorus:**

How great is our God! Sing with me, How great is our God!  
And all will see How great, how great is our God!

### **Verse 2**

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The God head, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. (chorus)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!  
Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!

(Chorus 3 times)

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash, 2004 worship together, Six Steps Music, used by permission, CCLI # 11440148 and 20162974)

**Rite of Confirmation**—Emma Sparr, Reagan Granstrom, Cameron Black and Ava Hannemann

## **The Prayer of the Church**

### **Invitation with Confession and Absolution**

P: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

P: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**C: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**C: Amen.**

P: As you believe, so let it be. 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.**

**INVITATIONAL SONG** ("Praise Team):

**He said come to the table**

**Come join the sinners who have been redeemed**

**Take your place beside the Savior now**

**Sit down and be set free**

**Come to the table**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

**DISTRIBUTION** "Draw Me Close"

Verse

Draw me close to You

Never let me go

I lay it all down again

To hear You say that I'm Your friend

You are my desire

No one else will do

'Cause nothing else can take Your place

To feel the warmth of Your embrace

Help me find the way

Bring me back to You

Chorus

You're all I want

You're all I've ever needed

You're all I want

Help me know You are near

Repeat Verse

Repeat Chorus 2x

Help me know You are near 2x

Word and Music by Kelly Carpenter 1994 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) CCLI License 11440148 and 20162974

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Benediction**

#### **The Going Out Song                    “Nobody Loves Me Like You”**

Morning, I see You in the sunrise ev'ry morning. It's like a picture that You've painted for me, a love letter in the sky.

Story, I could've had a really diff'rent story, but You came down from heaven to restore me, forever saved my life.

CHORUS:

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus. I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.  
I worship You as long as I am breathing. God, You are faithful and true; Nobody loves me like You.

Mountains, You're breaking down the weight of all my mountains. Even when it feels like I'm surrounded,  
You never leave my side, oh.

[REPEAT CHORUS]

Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing!  
Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song my heart keeps singing!

Oh, what a song to sing! Oh, what a song to sing!  
Oh, what a song to sing! Jesus, You love me, and I love You, God.

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus. I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.  
I worship You as long as I am breathing. God, I will worship You, forever worship You.

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus. I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.  
I worship You as long as I am breathing. God, You are faithful and true. Nobody loves me like You.

Nobody loves me like You love me, Jesus. I stand in awe of Your amazing ways.  
Nobody loves me like You. Nobody loves me like You.  
Words and Music by Ed Cash and Scott Cash- CCLI 11440148 and 20162974

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## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)**

<b>Worship Services:</b>	Traditional (6 p.m. Saturday & 8:15 a.m. Sunday) Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m. Sunday)
<b>Sunday School:</b>	9:30 a.m.
<b>Youth &amp; Adult Bible Classes</b>	9:30 a.m.
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Kenneth Hsu
<b>Christian Day School:</b>	Preschool through Grade 5 (before and after school care)
<b>Principal:</b>	Mrs. Alyce Strong Davis
<b>School Financial Consultant:</b>	Mr. Lon Stuhr
<b>Other Ministries for Children:</b>	Vacation Bible School Sunday School
<b>Other Ministries for Youth:</b>	Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Juniors in Fellowship Confirmation Program
<b>Other Ministries for Adults:</b>	Young at Heart Club (Dinners on 3rd Sunday noon) Friends of Christ Fellowship Club Women's League, Women's Circles, Sewing Group Prayer Chain, Soup Kitchen Volunteer Church Library, Lamplighters Evangelism

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[www.siuoxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siuoxcitystpauls.org)

# “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