

PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

I am the



*Vine,*

you are the branches.

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He who  
abides in

**ME,**

and I in him, bears much

*fruit;*



*for without Me  
you can do nothing.*



[John 15:5]

Our mission is “to Know Christ,  
to Grow in Christ,  
and to Show the Love of Christ.”

**Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
**Our mission is “To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,**  
**and to Show the Love of Christ”**

*We are glad you are here!*

**Music**

**Pianist** Tamara Evens

**Welcome**

**Pastor** Eric Olsen

**Invocation**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Presider:* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Presider:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

*Presider:* God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# Hymn : "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" ELW # 389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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**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.**

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord have mercy**

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

**Lord have mercy**

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.

**Lord have mercy**

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

**Lord have mercy**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.   **Amen**

**\*Prayer of the Day: 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 bear 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.**

**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40** *Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21** *We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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.

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.



## Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

### Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

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Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

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## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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**Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8** *On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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.

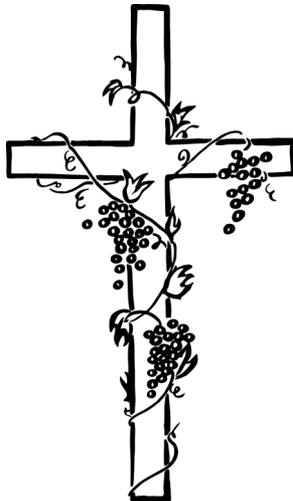
<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Eric Olsen**



Hymn

“Abide with Me”

ELW #629

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847  
 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## **Apostles Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 The People**

**Offering:** As we have generously received many blessings from God, let us now return blessings and gifts from our bounty that others may be helped in the name of Jesus.

### **Offering Prayer**

**We offer what you have first give us, our time and possessions, so that others may not feel alone, eat alone, live alone, be alone, but that they may be surrounded by your grace and love through us and the lives we offer to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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



## **Communion Prayer**

## Words of Institution

**P:** 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 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.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

*(If you are communing in your home, the person sharing the  
bread and the wine may use these words)*

**The body of Christ given for you  
The blood of Christ shed for you**

**P: Post Communion Blessing**

## Announcements



## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

**Closing Hymn:**     *“In the Garden”*

**TOSB # 261**

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

CHORUS:

And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known.

He speaks and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing

CHORUS:

I'd stay in the garden with Him though the night around  
me be falling;  
But He bids me go thru the voice of woe,   His voice to  
me is calling.

CHORUS:

**Sending Response**

We are welcomed into God's love,  
      **Just as we are**  
We are sent into God's world,  
      **To be a reflection of Christ.**  
Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
      **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



## **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, May 2, 2021**

9:00 am...”Sing for Joy” St. Olaf Choir, Northfield, MN

10 am... Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+ 9:30 am and 2 pm

... ‘The Lutheran Hour’ on 88.5 FM

2:00pm...**Blessing of the Fleet** at Fisherman’s Memorial Park

### **ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us Today (March 7th) for Worship and Fellowship time **ON ZOOM**. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by [Clicking Here](#) Password: 874950 or Call: 1 253-215-8782 ~if busy call 1 669-900-9128 At prompt enter Meeting ID: 846 0569 4721

### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Click [HERE](#) or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. Just ignore the sign in/log in prompt.

### **Worship in the Home**

“[Worship in the Home](#)” continues to be available each week on the ELCA Worship blog. You are encouraged to worship as you are able in homes on Sunday and throughout the week. In addition to Sunday worship resources, [resources for Daily Prayer](#) are available, including simplified forms of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer, as well as table prayers.

### **Sermon audio/video:**

<https://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons-2/>

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

Follow us on Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

### **National Day of Prayer**

Thursday, May 6 is the National Day of Prayer.

All over America, believers will be gathering to pray for our nation. You are invited to participate in this year’s National Day of Prayer.

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Location: Federal Building Flag Pole.

Prayer guides will be available at the prayer meeting.



**Pray often**

Don't forget next week May 9<sup>th</sup> is **Mother's Day**.

**May Prayer Partner:** Amazing Grace Lutheran, Anchorage

**May Mission Support:** Special Funds for Local Needs; Petersburg, Ak This fund is used to assist local residents with special needs. These are generally one-time or emergency appeals.

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Jell-O pudding mix

### **Prayers for Health & Healing**

Tim Fisk, Roald Norheim, Randy and Shannon Payne, Joseph Tagaban, Gary Putnam, Pam Krier, Samantha Keopple, Clayton Martinsen, Lois DeBoer, Paul Van Ettinger

### **Prayers for US Service Members**

Jesse Anderson	Serving in Bangor, WI
Ryan Beale	US Marine, serving in San Diego, CA
Dave Chapman	Serving in Honolulu, HI
Shania Dahlberg	Serving at Camp Pendleton, CA
Jon Floyd	Serving in San Diego, CA
Trinity Dunham Parker	Serving in Bangor, WA
Michael Gardner	Serving in Fort Meade, MD
Alan McCay	USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA
Erik Paulson	US Marines, serving in Pensacola, FL
Michael Serafini	Serving at Ft Irwin, CA
Shane Small	US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK
Kevin Thynes	Serving in South Korea
Peter Vermeer	USCG, serving in Connecticut
Chase Hammer	Us Marine, Jacksonville, NC



### **Prayers for Our Church Council**

Church Council: Chris Van Ettinger–President, Desi Burrell–VP  
Nancy Berg–Secretary, Robin Roberts–Treasurer, Kara Newman,  
Tom Parker–Youth, John Swanson–Building, John Small,  
Bridget Wittstock–Good Beginnings

# Birthdays This Week—Happy Birthday

Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Carol Larson

Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> Ian Lenhard

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Jaclyn Lyons, Erik Thynes



## Your Offering

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some have started to contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page click [HERE](#) and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Your Offerings

Offering Month to Date \$14,990

Offering Year to Date \$62,595

Monthly General Budget \$20,162

Basement Sale \$5,538.24

## Basement sale update!

Thank you to absolutely everyone who helped—those who donated, cleaned and walked through the door and said, “Thank you, we’re so glad you’re back doing the sale.” It wasn’t our highest year in sales, but not our lowest either. See ya next year, Stacey and crew.

## Special THANK YOU to:

Stacey Madsen, Liv Perschon, Renee Volk, Heidi Lyons, Nancy and Dave Berg, Marj Oines, Becca Madsen, Lenore Mathisen, Terry, Dell Johnson, Polly Koeneman, Sue Flint, Sandy Volk, Paddy Mikkelsen, Terri Swanson, Jean Curry, Lila and Grant Trask, Harry and Betty Rogers, Steve Lombard, Don Bieber, Knut and Gerry Frostad, Kathy Emmenegger, Marry Thompson, Judy Janke, Katey and Maddy Gilpin, Britin Colson, Carol Olsen, Sally Dwyer, Glo Wollen, Tamara Evens, Sue Paulson, Brenda Norheim, Holli Flint, Ginger Evens, Sheryl Leekley and Stan Hjort.



**Coffee Order** Get in your Mt. Meru coffee orders to Grant Trask. 772-3775 or [trask@gci.net](mailto:trask@gci.net)

<b>Thank you Volunteers</b>	This Week: May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Next Week: May 9 <sup>th</sup>
Musician	Tamara Evens	Sue Paulsen
Reader	Marj Oines	
Counter	Dave Berg	Dave Burleigh

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**  
**May 2, 2021**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**We Are the Branches**

To encourage flowering and fruit production in vines, trees, and shrubs, most of us know that pruning is necessary. This isn't the easiest of work, nor does it make the pruned plant look all that great for a while afterward. Yet often what results after pruning is a plant that is more abundant, beautiful, and healthy than it would have been otherwise.

In our reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that he is the vine, his Father is the vine grower, and we, his disciples, are the branches on which fruit grows. Without the vine and the vine grower, the branches do not exist. Yet, often in our spiritual lives it seems as though we get these roles mixed up. We are wooed by the sense of accomplishment and value that comes from producing results of one kind or another, and we fail to acknowledge the source that makes that "fruit" possible.

However, in today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to produce results; it's to stay connected. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing," Jesus says (John 15:5). Jesus is our source and strength; it is only by our connection to Jesus the vine that we the branches bear fruit that will last, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, service, kindness, and patience.

To grow this kind of fruit, Jesus relates how necessary it is for us to be pruned occasionally. In other words, those things that are not of God in our lives have to be rooted out from time to time. The process of pruning isn't always the most enjoyable and can even include a good deal of pain, but it leads to lives that are whole and abundant. As we abide in Jesus, we are given the strength we need to endure the pruning process. We also experience the peace that comes from knowing that the fruit that will follow is for the glory of God.

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**Next week's Readings** Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

**Petersburg Lutheran Church**

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