

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125  
LuRae Hallstrom, Pastor; Cell: 402-269-7147, Home: 402-269-3147

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 22:25-31)

P: Awe-inspiring God, we gather together to praise you for your tender compassion and care of needy people.

**C: Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your prayers.**

P: Listening God, we gather to revere and honor your supportive concern for people who cry to you for help.

**C: Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your praise.**

P: People of every nation are called to gather together to worship God, in thankfulness for God's loving mercies.

**C: Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your worship. Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN: "Here in This Place" WOV 718

**1. Here in this place... new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

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### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: 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)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in through, 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.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: 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.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

## SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

<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.

## GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[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."

## MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

## HYMN OF THE DAY: "Let Us Break Bread Together" LBW 212

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.**
- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.**
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.**

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## APOSTLES' 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 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 THE PEOPLE

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.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends 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 assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have loved 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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. 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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: Beyond the stars; beneath the sea; Within each cell; with every breath.

**C: We praise you, O God.**

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: Through the water; by night and day; Across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**C: We praise you, O God.**

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son; at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; Beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**C: We thank you, O God.**

## 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus who taught us to pray...

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### DISTRIBUTION

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" ELW 543

**1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

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#### SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Pat Jobman, Velda Lenners, Sharon Vrtiska, Tanner Schmidt, our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Michelle Baker, Amanda Dornhoff, Ricky Hillard, Jill Nelson (May 3), Kacey Jacob (May 5), Anita Wilgers (May 6), Jill Sasse, Rylynn Fritch (May 8).

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to Adam & Kenya Keedy (5-8-13).

**FIRST COMMUNION:** God's blessings to our youth who have completed their First Communion studies and will be receiving their first communion this morning:

Tana Antons, Justice Currie, Ruthie Fritzen, Cashton Steinacher and Kenzi Wingate.

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES:** Receiving Bibles this morning are – Braxton Eagleburger – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Maximus Quint - 3rd grade, Blake Quint - 4th grade, Blaze Quint - 6th grade and Anton Parker - 7th grade.

**THE LADIES OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN, FILLEY** would like to cordially invite you to a Victorian Tea and luncheon on May 22 at 11 a.m. Be sure to wear a hat when you join us to enjoy fellowship, entertainment and music. Please RSVP to Carol Frerichs 402-223-7919 by May 9. We look forward to you joining us.

**SIGN-UP SHEET FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex if you would be willing to host Fellowship Hour. As of now, we are serving individually bagged cookies/treats. Thank you for your help!

**THRIVENT ACTION CARD PROJECT - SAVE CAN TABS.** From now until the end of June we are collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house in Omaha. This project will help families with costs to stay when their child is in a hospital in Omaha. Container for tabs is downstairs in fellowship hall.

**HELP NEEDED:** We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called “Support Our Schools and Churches.” All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our first goal of \$150,000 and received the first check for \$1000, so now we are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don’t want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY:** American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU** for your continued support to this ministry!

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on Facebook and on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com) with your email address.

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

**Council** – Dave Norton-President, Virgil Jobman-Vice President, Carol Frerichs-Secretary, Brenda Hippen-Treasurer, Linda Searcey-at large

**Reader** – Kierstin Rehms

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** – Brenda Hippen

**Audio/Video** – Norm Flesner

**Accompanist:** Sandy Mahler