

AS WE GATHER

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ’s vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

**PRELUDE:** *Borning Cry* by Suzanne M. Hibbard, *Children of the Heavenly Father* by Cathy Moglebust Handbells

OPENING PRAYER & INVOCATION

**P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

EASTER RESPONSE

**P** He is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN: “CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER”

LSB 725

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** God's Word tells us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."  
**C** But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

*Silence for reflection.*

**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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**THIS IS THE FEAST**

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9 LSB 155

*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. 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.
- C** Amen.

**READINGS FROM GOD’S WORD**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 8:26–39

<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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

*1 John 4:1-11*

<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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 15:1-8*

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

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN: "GOD'S OWN CHILD, I GLADLY SAY IT"

*LSB 594*

1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized  
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized  
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long  
in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,  
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,  
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:  
Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's  
I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the  
E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -  
treas - ures man - y? I have one worth  
font I've trav - eled, All your might has  
waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -

more than an - y That brought me sal -  
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your  
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized

va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

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## TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD

### OFFERING

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*, by John Ylvisaker

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*Our confirmands come forward to profess the faith given to them through Baptism, by the Holy Spirit, and now confessed with their own voice before the congregation.*

- P** Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord:

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil, all his works and all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
- R** *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you confess the teachings of the Lutheran Church, as you have learned them from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true to God's Word?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in the Christian faith and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

## BLESSING

- P** *Kneeling [Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting. Amen

**Emma Grace Clancy**  
1 Peter 1:7

**Kayla Marie Dworzanski**  
Philippians 4:6-7

**Kylie Marie Fontana**  
2 Timothy 4:17

**Kaitlin Grace Marie Johnston**  
Hebrews 13:6

**Molly Addison Reynolds**  
Joshua 1:9

**Addison Kristine Schultz**  
John 3:16

**Natalie Elizabeth Wroblewski**  
Romans 8:18

## WELCOME OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- P** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you members of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Today you have publicly confessed with your own voice that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brothers and sisters in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- C** **We welcome you in the name of the Lord!**



**To our visitors:** The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (*communion*) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper.*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

- 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 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, Lord, our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. With joy, we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Sanctus**

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9, LSB 161*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- P** Taught by our LORD and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen.**

**PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI**

*John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**LAMB OF GOD - Agnus Dei**

*John 1:29, LSB 163*

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION**

When you are directed, come forward to the front and pick up a sealed cup that contains the bread on one side and the wine on the other, and move down the row as others come forward. We begin with the side with the bread which has a pull tab, then turn it over for the wine which has another pull tab. Cups and pull tabs will be placed in the bowls as you head back to your seat. If you cannot come forward, please let us know, we will come to you at the beginning of distribution.

**HYMN: "YOUR TABLE I APPROACH"**

**LSB 628**



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;  
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.  
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

**5 O grant, most blessed Lord,  
 That earth and hell combined  
 May not about this sacrament  
 Raise doubt within my mind.**

**6 Oh, may I never fail  
 To thank You day and night  
 For Your true body and true blood,  
 O God, my peace and light.**

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**HYMN: "SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING"**

**LSB 643**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.  
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed  
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 U - nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing



To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.  
 Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we grow daily as fruitful branches of Christ the Vine. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** He is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN: "GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING"

LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.  
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My  
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.  
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.  
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.  
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

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