

# NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (11:11 am)

## ABIDING

Psalm 150  
Acts 8:26-40  
1 John 4:1-11  
John 15:1-8

### Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

“God is love,” and He has manifested Himself to us by sending “his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, “he has given us of his Spirit,” so that we also believe and confess “that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” In this way, we “abide in him and he in us,” and we “love one another” (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip’s preaching of “the good news about Jesus” to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when “they came to some water,” the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into “the true vine,” Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He “bears much fruit” in us (John 15:3–5).

### WELCOME – (Deanna)

### GATHERING SONG - I'M SO BLESSED

I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
Trouble knocking at my door today  
I ain't gonna let it in  
Worry wanna steal my joy away  
I ain't gonna let it win  
*On my best day I'm a child of God  
On my worst day I'm a child of God  
Oh everyday is a good day  
You're the reason why*  
***I'm so blessed I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest  
No it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord I'm so blessed***  
I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
When I count the problems that I see  
Hope looks all but gone  
But when I count the ways You're good to me  
You got me counting all day long

I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed hallelujah I'm blessed  
No it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord hallelujah I'm blessed

CCLI Song # 7167000

Jonathan Smith | Logan Cain | Madison Cain | Matthew West | Taylor Cain

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## PSALM 150 – LET EVERYTHING PRAISE THE LORD (Pastor)

**Praise the LORD!**

**Praise God in his sanctuary;**

**praise him in his mighty heavens!**

**<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;**

**praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

**<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;**

**praise him with lute and harp!**

**<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;**

**praise him with strings and pipe!**

**<sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals;**

**praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

**<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!**

**Praise the LORD!**

## AS WE BEGIN and CALLING ON GOD'S NAME (Pastor)

**P** - In the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

## CONFESSION (Pastor and Actors)

**P** - Our Bible readings today point us to several personal feelings and attitudes that we may have... feelings and attitudes that are sinful... feelings and attitudes that, as they apply to us, we want to confess to God, along with all of our sins of thought, word and deed.

In Acts 8, we will hear about the Ethiopian man who was uncertain and had doubts about who the Suffering Servant of God was in Isaiah 53.

In the Epistle reading from 1 John 4, there are those who look at things from a purely worldly point of view and others who exhibit apathy and a lack of love.

Finally, in the Gospel reading, Jesus tells us about people who are useless, who don't bear fruit for God's kingdom and who may, because of that, despair at the possibility of being thrown into the fire and burned.

Any and all of these things plant shame and guilt in our hearts and minds.

These are the things we want to humbly and sincerely bring to God in our time of confession.

*Brief pause*

**P** - In a beautiful Christmas song, Chris Rice prays that the newborn, holy, Son of God would rob our sin... YES, ROB OUR SIN... take our sins from us, and take those sins onto Himself. And that's exactly what Jesus did, as an adult, as the Saviour.

**P** - Let me foreshadow some Gospel words from our 1 John 4 Epistle reading: ***“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”***

## **FORGIVENESS**

**P** - God loves YOU! You know that because Jesus robbed you of YOUR sins and died for YOU, as a sacrifice for those sins. You are forgiven... and that means you are FREE, you can TRUST God fully, and as you do, He gives you JOY... and HOPE... and LOVE... By His Holy Spirit, He makes you GODLY, and gives you PURPOSE - to bear fruit for His kingdom. Live in His peace. Amen.

## **WORSHIP SONG - GOOD GOOD FATHER**

I've heard a thousand stories  
Of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper  
Of love in the dead of night  
You tell me that You're pleased  
And that I'm never alone

***You're a Good Good Father***

***It's who You are***

***It's who You are***

***It's who You are***

***And I'm loved by You***

***It's who I am***

***It's who I am***

***It's who I am***

I've seen many searching for answers  
Far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers  
Only You provide  
Because You know just what we need  
Before we say a word  
*You are perfect in all of Your ways*  
*You are perfect in all of Your ways*  
*You are perfect in all of Your ways to us*  
Love so undeniable I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
Into love love love

## FIRST READING FROM ACTS 8:26-40 - (Kaye)

### *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

<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.

## READING OF THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN 4:1-11 - (Kaye)

### *Test the Spirits*

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.

### *God Is Love*

<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.

## READING OF THE GOSPEL FROM JOHN 15:1-8 - (Kaye)

*I Am the True Vine*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me 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.

## KIDS' SONG – THE LAUGHING SONG

Ho, ho, ho, Hosanna.  
Ha, ha Hallelujah.  
He, he, he, he saved me.  
I've got the joy of the Lord.

## KIDS' MESSAGE – PUPPETS “BILLY AND BOBBY” ABOUT JOHN 15 (Laverne)

## WORSHIP SONG – ALL THE EARTH WILL SING YOUR PRAISES

*You lived You died  
You said in three days  
You would rise  
You did You're alive  
You rule You reign  
You said You're coming back again  
I know that You will  
And all the earth will sing Your praises*  
You took  
You take our sins away O God  
You give  
You gave Your life away for us  
You came down  
You saved us through the cross  
Our hearts are changed  
Because of Your great love  
***All the earth will sing Your praises (4X)***

CCLI Song # 4037057

Paul Baloche

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## MESSAGE – “ABIDING” – John 15:1-8

CREED (Song) – from the Service of Doers, words from Martin Luther

1. We all believe in one true God, maker of earth and heaven.

The Father who to us in love, hath the name of children given.  
He in soul and body feeds us, all we need His hand provides us.  
Through all snares and perils leads us, sees no harm betides us.  
He cares for us by day and night, all things are governed by His might.

2. And we believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord and Saviour,  
Who with the Father equal might, hath power and glory forever.  
Born of Mary, virgin mother, by the working of the Spirit,  
He became our elder brother, that heaven we might inherit.  
Was crucified by sinners all, and raised by God to life again.
3. And we in the Holy Ghost believe, who grace and comfort giveth,  
and with the Father and the Son in eternal glory liveth.  
Who all Christian people even Keeps in unity of Spirit.  
Sins are truly forgiven through the blest Redeemer's merit.  
All flesh shall rise again and we shall live with God eternally.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Prayer)

#### SONG - LORD'S PRAYER *(Adapted from a West Indies melody)*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
On earth as it is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
But deliver us from evil,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
And the glory forever and ever,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Amen, Amen, it shall be so,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Amen, Amen, it shall be so,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.

### BENEDICTION (Pastor)

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. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CLOSING SONG – MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know He rescued my soul  
His blood has covered my sin  
I believe I believe  
My shame He's taken away  
My pain is healed in His name  
I believe I believe  
I'll raise a banner  
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

***My Redeemer lives***

***My Redeemer lives***

***My Redeemer lives***

***My Redeemer lives***

You lift my burdens  
I'll rise with You  
I'm dancing on this mountaintop  
To see Your kingdom come

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Reuben Morgan

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