



*“Apart from  
me you can  
do nothing.”*

JOHN 15:5

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter Confirmation Sunday**

**10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship**

April 28, 2024

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
2601 23rd Ave South — Fargo, ND 58103  
Phone: (701) 293-1047  
Pastor Chris Waldvogel

**Welcome!** “God is love” and 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).

### **+ Order of Worship +**

#### **Hymn**

“Lift High the Cross”

837

#### **Invocation and Easter Greeting**

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

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

#### **Opening Versicles**

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made.

**C:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P:** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C:** the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**P:** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

**C:** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**P:** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord,

**C:** Teach me Your paths.

**P:** Sanctify us in Your truth.

**C:** Your Word is truth.

**P:** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C:** the name of the Lord is to be praised!

## Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” 594

## First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

1 John 4:1-11

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

(Jesus said), "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsory

P: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

## The Ten Commandments

C: **You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or his maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**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. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

## Children's Sermon

### Hymn

"Christ Be My Leader"

861

### Sermon

### Offering

## Rite of Confirmation

1. **Christ's Command to Baptize, Teach and Confess**

2. **Profession of Faith by Confirmands**

Aiden Johnson

Jason Lehfeldt

Noah Ternes

Jocelyn Thorsrud

3. **The Blessing of the Confirmands**

4. **Welcome the New Communicant Members**

5. **Prayer**

## **Prayer of the Church**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the holy Christian church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For seasonable weather, and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the Holy Spirit to grant holy desires, good counsels and just works that we may live in peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For those in distress of mind, body or soul, for the sick and the dying, and all those who have requested our prayers, including \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: *(Other petitions)* Let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## **Collect of the Day**

P: Let us pray: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **Collect for the Word**

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear, read, mark and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Luther's Morning Prayer**

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger, and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C: Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

## **Hymn**

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

919