

The Father has sent  
his Son to be the

**SAVIOR**

of the world.



1 JOHN 4:14, ESV

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 2, 2021, 11:00 AM**

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, we celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

**Lessons and Liturgy Today**

As branches are to the vine, so are we to Christ. We are not alone, nor can we exist alone; it is only in connection with Christ that life flows to us and through us. It is only in Christ that we see who we are meant to be and what fruit we are meant to bear. Easter teaches us a brand-new meaning to Christ's Promise to abide in us. Not even death can keep Him from living within His people by Baptism and faith. In order to sustain His Life in us, we are called to remain in Him, to stay connected to the Vine so that we branches may bear the good fruit of His Kingdom.

**Welcome and Sharing the Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**Musical Offering, Opening Song: The Lion and The Lamb**

B Brown/B Johnson

1. He's coming on the clouds;  
kings and kingdoms will bow down  
and every chain will break  
as broken hearts declare His praise -  
for who can stop the Lord Almighty?

***Refrain***

Our God is the Lion,  
The Lion of Judah,  
He's roaring with power  
and fighting our battles,  
And every knee will bow before Him!

Our God is the Lamb,  
the Lamb that was slain  
for the sins of the world;  
His blood breaks the chains -  
and ev'ry knee will bow  
before the Lion and the Lamb;  
ev'ry knee will bow before Him!

2. So open up the gates,  
make way before the King of kings;  
The God who comes to save  
is here to set the captives free  
for who can stop the Lord Almighty?      *Refrain*

Who can stop the Lord Almighty;  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?      *Refrain*

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## **Invocation of The Holy Trinity**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** We make our beginning 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!**

**P** Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

**C** **Death no longer has dominion over Him. (Romans 6:9)**

**P** Christ has risen from the dead;

**C** **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

**P** He has given Him dominion over the works of His Hands;

**C** **He has put all things under His Feet. (Matthew 28:7, Hebrews 2:7)**

## Confession of Sins

P If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

**C The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

P Jesus said, "I Am the Vine; you are the branches.

**C If you remain in Me and I in you,**

P you will bear much fruit;

**C apart from Me you can do nothing.**

P O most Merciful God,

**C we confess to You that, even though we are in Christ, we often live as if we were not. Sin dwells in us like blight. We fail to bear fruit; and we deserve none on Your Blessings. Father, remove our sin, as a vinedresser prunes the vine; that we may bear fruit in keeping with repentance, for the Sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## The Good News of God's Forgiveness

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 Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Musical Offering, Song of Praise: Forever Reign

J. Ingram/R. Morgan

1. You are good, You are good,  
when there's nothing good in me  
You are love, You are love  
on display for all to see -  
You are light, You are light,  
when the darkness closes in;  
You are hope, You are hope,  
You have covered all my sin

2. You are peace, You are peace  
when my fear is crippling  
You are true, You are true  
even in my wandering -  
You are joy, You are joy;  
You're the reason that I sing  
You are life, You are life,  
in You death has lost its sting

### ***Refrain***

O, I'm running to Your arms,  
I'm running to Your arms;  
the riches of Your love will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace;  
Light of the world, forever reign

3. You are more, You are more  
than my words will ever say;  
You are Lord, You are Lord,  
all creation will proclaim -  
You are here, You are here;  
in Your presence I'm made whole  
You are God, You are God;  
of all else I'm letting go           *Refrain*

My heart will sing no other Name -  
Jesus, Jesus;  
My heart will sing no other Name -  
Jesus, Jesus                           *Refrain*

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### **New Testament Reading – Acts 8:26-40**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road---the desert road---that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.

The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He said, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter;  
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so He did not open His Mouth.  
In His humiliation He was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of His descendants?  
For His Life was taken from the earth."*

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the Gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading – 1 John 4:1-21**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is Love. 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. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His Love is made

complete in us. We know that we live in Him and He in us; because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is Love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment, because in this world we are like Him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel** – John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

"I Am the True Vine, and My Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. "I Am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's Glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Musical Offering, Song of the Day:**

**Message** – Pastor Jonathan Blanke

**Apostles' Creed**

**C 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.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

*after each petition*

**P Lord, in your mercy,  
C hear our prayer.**

### **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**

### **Benediction**



## **Musical Offering, Closing Song: This is Amazing Grace**

J Riddle/J Farro

1. Who breaks the pow'r of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

2. Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

### ***Refrain***

This is amazing grace,  
this is unfailing love -  
that You would take my place,  
that You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
that I would be set free:  
Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me

3. Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice;  
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings: *Refrain*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
worthy is the King who conquered the grave *Refrain*

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**P** Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

**+ Go in Peace! Serve the Lord! Thanks Be to God! +**

***In Service Today:***

Keyboards/Vocals: Christopher Reed  
Guitarist: Charlie Shiel  
Vocalist: Rebecca Melland-Kuo  
Instrumentalist: Lecia Cecconi-Roberts  
Sound Technician: Jeff Ashmore  
Video Technician: Jayden Ashmore  
Live Stream Producer: Susan Moore  
Camera Operators: Jill Hammergren, Garrett Nigg

Proclaimer: Pastor Jonathan Blanke  
Liturgist: Alan Shaw  
Lay Reader: Lynn Hoffman  
Greeters: Mike & Sharon Hahne  
Usher: Mike Persson



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## God's Love Letter, 4: Love Perfected, Love Lived Out (1 John 4:1-21) Easter 5

We cannot say that we love God (whom we have not seen) yet continue to hate our brother or sister (whom we *have* seen).

- 1. Today is the fourth week of a 5-week series on 1 John**, a letter all about God's love for us—and because of God's love for us, our love for one another. Today John's theme is discerning the true from the false (4:1–6) about Jesus...and how the crucified and resurrected Christ grounds us in God's perfect/completed love!
- 2. Spirit-gifted faith sees Jesus not only as \_\_\_\_\_ and living \_\_\_\_, but also as a man who suffered in human flesh and died (4:2–3)**. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (4:10). No other sacrifice is necessary! All has been accomplished and completed (4:12, 17, 18) to bring God's unconditional love to us!
- 3. John's community suffered from a discernment challenge, but today also, God's perfect/fulfilled love for us in Christ Jesus leads us to exercise discernment and “\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.”**
  - The Spirit leads us to discern and confess with our mouths (as our confirmands are doing today) what we believe to be true about Jesus Christ.
  - The Spirit leads us to live out (however imperfectly, here below) the perfect and unconditional love of God for us that Jesus has made possible.
- 4. Because we are sinners, we cannot help but fear God's punishment, but God's perfect/fulfilled love for us, gifted to us in Christ Jesus, leads us to stand \_\_\_\_\_ before God now and on the Last Day; it “\_\_\_\_\_” our fear!**
  - Even though our faith is always--from our point of view—an imperfect and inadequate thing, the Holy Spirit make our unrepresentable faith presentable before God.
  - Those who wonder if their love will be returned live in fear. We need not live this way! God's love for us was *prior* to our love for God and is *not dependent* on our love for God. We are freed to love God and one another.