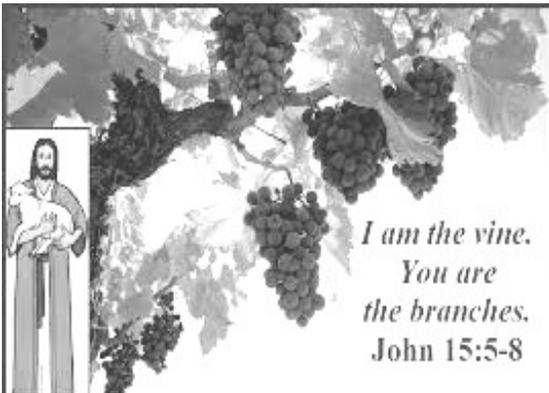


**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
May 2, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community,
and we look forward to seeing you again!**



This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

(adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2020)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome

Pastor: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Words of Faith

from Psalm 67

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us.

All: May God show us the light of his presence and come to us.

P: Let the earth be glad and shout for joy,

All: for you have offered your salvation to people of all nations.

P: Indeed, the earth has brought forth new growth.

All: The vines and the branches spring forth and offer the promise of rich fruit.

P: So let us thank and praise God for all his blessings.

All: And may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of all that he has done.

Thanksgiving of Baptism and Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raised us to new life. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for a time of self-reflection

P: God of grace,

All: we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we do not have enough, that we are not good enough. Forgive us for not seeing your image in us. Forgive us for not seeking your life in us. Help us to see we are made in your love, your image, your peace. We ask all of these things in the name of the risen Christ.

P: Hear the Good News: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ †, your sins are forgiven. May the almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: O God,

All: we resist your unfailing love for us and for others, and we turn our backs on the gift of new life, choosing instead the old way of sin, the way that takes us away from you and leads us back toward death. Free us from this power of sin, guide us by your Spirit and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new and everlasting life. Amen.

You are invited to hum or sing along softly with the music.

Easter Song of Praise

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Stanza 1 ELW# 392

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef in a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Public Domain

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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.

¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

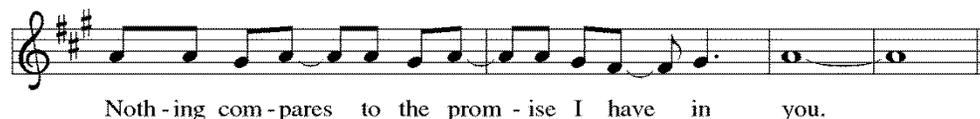
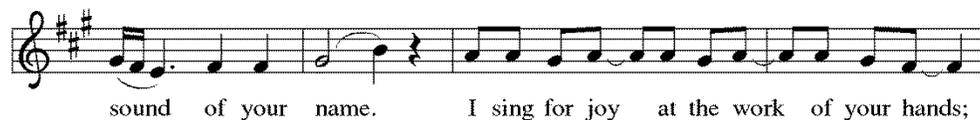
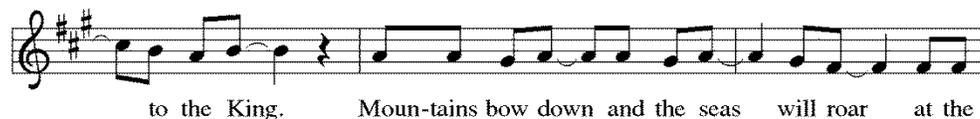
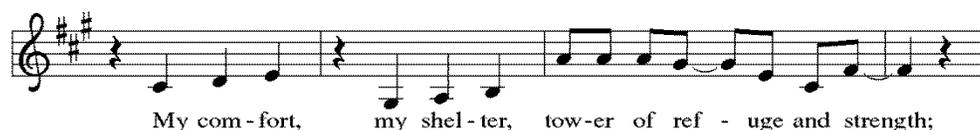
Gospel Acclamation

"Shout to the Lord"

ELW# 821

Words and Music are printed on the next page.

Shout to the Lord



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP).
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

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

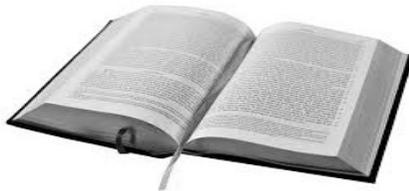
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.



Message

Pastor Janel Kuester

Hymn of the Day

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW# 618

Words and Music are printed on the next page.



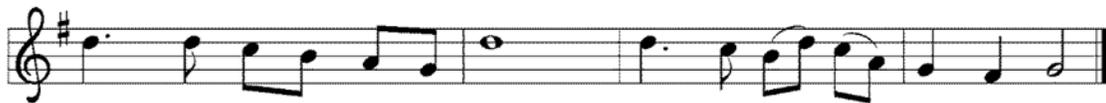
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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Profession of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 God's People

The congregation will respond to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

*We respond in gratitude for God's never-failing love and mercy.
Your offering can be received this day at the door in the offering plate,
through the mail, or dropped off at the church office.
You can also do a one-time or recurring gift via the website.
Thank you for your generosity.*

Community Announcements

Please rise in body or spirit.

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us at your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ invites us to this meal to eat and be satisfied.

Please be seated.

*Anyone who has communed elsewhere is welcome to commune here.
Those who do not yet commune are invited to receive a blessing.
Communion will be served at your seated area.*

For those joining us virtually, you are invited to share the Lord's Supper at home with these words.

"The body of Christ, given for you." And "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

A blessing may be given to those who do not yet commune, perhaps using these words:

"God bless you, beloved child of God." Or "Jesus loves you."

Communion Distribution Hymns: *printed below and on the following page*

Hymn

"Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

ELW# 754



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Public Domain

Hymn

“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”

ELW# 759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Public Domain

Communion Blessing

P: Now may the body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Blessing

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Words

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Sending Hymn

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW# 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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Worship Assistants, Thank You For Serving This Sunday, May 2, 2021

Musician: Michelle Wood **Assisting Minister:** Ed Boehne

PA Operators: Josh Fragodt, Chad Gregoire

Video Camera Operators: Bev Isaackson, Tracy Sterner

Ushers: Shawn Myers (captain); Josh Anderson, Ryan Fromm, Derek Golberg,
Scott Hanson, Greg Lund, Gary Morken, Will Myers

Altar Care: Anne Isaackson, Rose Wisdorf

Count Offering: Jon Myrvik, Tracy Sterner

Worship Options

On Church YouTube Channel – links are posted on both the church Facebook Page and on our website.

On the Local Cable Channel 180
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

In person worship
Regular Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bulletins are emailed and are posted at our website: christcottonwood.org.

QR Code for Online Giving



Thank You --The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online with the following link: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

Baccalaureate Sunday – May 9 — during 9:30 am Worship

Recognition of Graduating High School Seniors:

Trinity Broberg Evan Gregoire
Colby Marczak Lucee Olson

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Sandra Arnold	Brooks Baker	Landyn Berends	Brody Bloch
Cole Busack	Norm Evers	Grant Johnson	Bob Kaeter
Teri Kemmer	Cole Louwagie	Lane Louwagie	Gretchen Noon
Bobby Olson	Lloyd Powell	Savannah Rausch	
The family of Parker Viaene			

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Arvilla Berg, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Elaine Elston, Irene Evers, Norm Evers, Marge Gigstad, Janet Gniffke, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts

Families of our Congregation: *Jean Dahl Neil and Sandy Dovre, Noah, Jonah, Eli*

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.

*Robin's Nest Children's Home, Jamaica
Kikatiti Secondary School, Tanzania
World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)*

Facebook -	Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN
Website -	www.christcottonwood.org
Mailing -	P.O. Box 166; Cottonwood, MN 56229
Office Phone -	507.423.5100
Pastor Janel Kuester -	Cell: 651.726.4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com



Quilting Dates

The quilters are excited to be gathering together again to lovingly make quilts. Please note that masks are being worn but it does not stop the fun from happening. Hope you can make it! **Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to Noon, on the following dates:**

May 4

June 1

July 6

May 18

June 15

July 20

Upcoming Synod Assembly Pieces

This year the Synod Assembly will look different on so many levels. It will all be Virtual through Zoom and will cover some more dates on the calendar to make sure the process for the Bishop election will happen smoothly. This will be an exciting process, as after 18 years, Bishop Jon Anderson has chosen to not run for the office again.

If you are interested in serving as a voting member, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

The church covers your assembly costs.

Dates to Set Aside:

June 6 - times to be determined, but mid-afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

June 11 – times to be determined, but afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

June 12 – times to be determined, but morning (a short call to order); afternoon through evening is expected with a long afternoon recess

There will be other dates where you can choose to be on Zoom to hear committee updates and test how to vote.



Fellowship Fun Night

Sunday, June 13, 7-9 p.m.

At Christ Lutheran Church Yard

For all ages – children are welcome

Is anyone else missing hanging out together in fellowship time? COVID has separated us for long enough. Be sure to mark the evening of June 13 for this “Fellowship Fun Night.” The evening will be filled with the following opportunities of being in fellowship and fun together on the church property facing the lake.

Bonfire Pits and a S’mores Bar – come and enjoy The Classic, The Nutty Buddy, and The Grasshopper.

Picnic Tables available for a place to sit down and enjoy catching up – or bring your own lawn chair.

Outdoor Games: Bean Bag Boards, Horseshoes, Giant Jenga, Yardzi, Tenzi Dice, Ladder Ball, Frisbee Golf, or Bocce Ball to name a few.

Paint Rocks: Rocks will be available for painting which will be used in part for the July event.

Save the Dates:

More Fellowship Fun Nights are scheduled for July 18, August 22 and September 12.