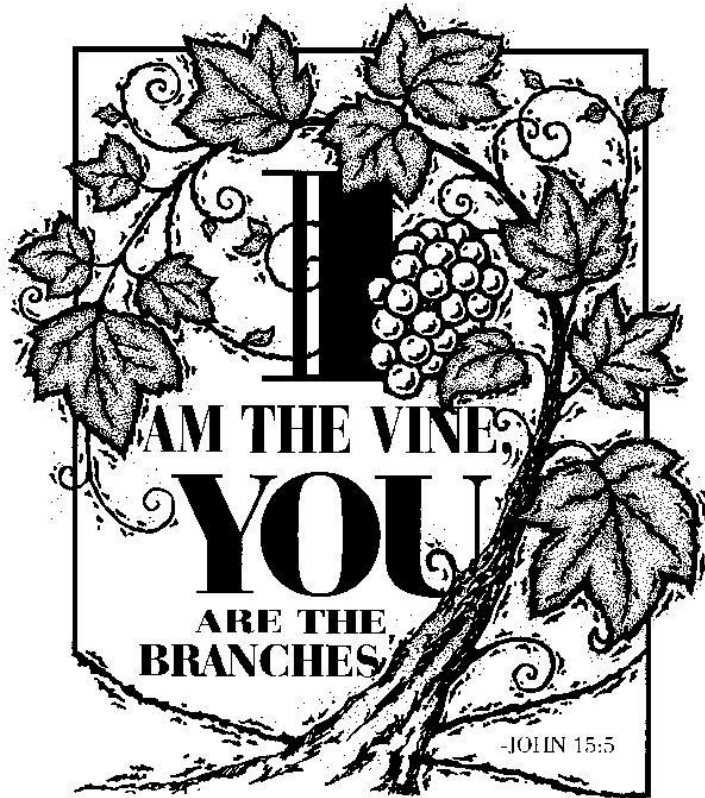


***Parish Three Lutheran Churches
9:00 AM Immanuel, Titonka, IA***



**April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Pastor John Heille**

Today's introduction:

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 described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

Anita Eden, Organist

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER PROCLAMATION (spoken boldly)

P: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: The angel spoke to the disciples, "Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He is risen."

Alleluia!

C: Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

GATHERING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

WOV #699

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet

Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 22:25-31 (read responsively)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia..."

LBW p.62

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Response before the Gospel

All: **"Glory to you, O Lord"**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] 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."

Response after the Gospel

All: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Life on the Vine"

Pr. John Heille

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Baptized in Water"

WOV # 693

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

EASTER CREED and BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

P: Here is water, the place where your life in the Lord began.

Once you were no people; now you are God's people.

Do you believe in God the Father?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, 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.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all evil works and ways?

Do you renounce your old, dead life?

C: Yes, for once we were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ Jesus!

P: Is it your desire to live as an Easter alleluia?

C: We will continue to celebrate the presence of God's love in our lives.

We will continue to grow with each other in Christ, our risen Lord.

We will live as Easter alleluias!

PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

"Let the vineyards be fruitful"

LBW p. 66

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LBW p. 68-71

"Lord be with you..."

"Holy, holy, holy..."

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

"Lamb of God..."

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

(Stand as you are able)

LBW p. 72
WOV # 770
WOV # 721
WOV # 731

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

LBW # 143

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to everyone worshipping today: those attending in person, those attending the Care Center live-stream and anyone joining YouTube Iowa Lutherans. And a big Thank You to all those participating in worship services: organists, readers, live-streamers, ushers, communion preparer and servers, etc.

Prayer Concerns

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Russ Bruns, all active military, our folks in the nursing homes, those suffering from disasters, and our Bishops Eaton & Halaas.

THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE

4/30/2024 1:00 PM Quilting @ St. John's
5/05/2024 9:00 AM Worship @ St. John's – confirmation Sunday

Pastor John's contact information: his cell phone is (507)-399-3119 and his email is unlikelyj@icloud.com. His normal office hours are:

Mondays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Immanuel office

Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM St. John's office

Wednesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Good Hope office

PARISH THREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

****May Bible Studies** will be held on May 6 and 20 at 6:30 PM @ Good Hope.

****A First Communion Workshop** for kids and a parent/other adult will be held on Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 PM at Good Hope. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12th. First Communion is open to children when their parents believe they are ready. Please let Pastor John know ASAP if your child will be attending.

****Thank you received from Mosaic:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the generous donation to Mosaic from your soup lunch fundraiser. Your part in making a difference in lives we serve is unseen. We are blessed to have your support.

Noland Stewart,
Mosaic Community Relations Manager



****125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125****

****Immanuel 125th Celebration T-shirts and RSVPs:** Orders for Immanuel's 125th T-shirt are being taken now. They will only be available if ordered and paid in advance. Order forms are online (www.parish3.com) and at the rear of Immanuel and must be returned by May 12. An **RSVP** letter for the Saturday evening meal was mailed out; please respond by June 1 using any of the means described in the letter.

****Immanuel will be collecting memorabilia** to display at the upcoming 125th celebration. Start gathering your things and watch for a Sunday to bring them. All items will be returned; make sure your name is on them to ensure that they are returned.

****Woden's 125th Celebration** will be held July 20 – 21, 2024. Pictures and information about Woden throughout the last 125 years are being requested and can be sent to woden125th@gmail.com or dropped off at the Woden Library or City Hall. There is more information on the hot pink poster on St. John's bulletin board.

****125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125*125****

