



By this My Father is glorified,  
that you bear much fruit

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

## BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3210 Maple Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467  
Phone: Church 715-341-2898; Cell 715-498-0093  
Website [www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com](http://www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com)

**Pastor David E. Ficken**

**Guest Pastor Brad Thomas**

### Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

### Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Worship Information

**Parents with Young Children:** We encourage families to worship together.

**Worship Bulletin:** Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

**Worship Form:** There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.

**Communion:** Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are **gluten intolerant** please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

### STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

#### BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion

 **Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord’s Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.**

- **TO PREPARE:** Please use the Christian Questions with Their Answers from “The Sacrament of the Altar” on page 329 in the front of the Lutheran Service Book. You are not obligated to partake if you feel, for whatever reason, the need to refrain from the Lord’s Supper for a short time.
- **Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession and absolution.**

## **AS WE GATHER**

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ's vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

## **WTNESS & OUTREACH**

John 15:1-8: Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. Apart from the Vine, we can do nothing to please God. In fact, apart from the vine, we can do nothing at all! But, staying attached to the True Vine makes us productive branches who bear much fruit, including the fruit of sharing the Good News of Jesus with hearts that are afire for Him.

**Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB).**

## **WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS**

### **HYMN**

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

LSB 474

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center  
Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Jesus the vine, We are the branches;  
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
Gift of the future now flowing to me.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent:  
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!”  
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

City of God, Easter forever,  
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of Life, Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**INVOCATION** (*The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.*)

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11*

**Pastor:** The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

**People:** in those who hope in His steadfast love.

**Pastor:** Taste and see that the LORD is good!

**People:** Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

**Pastor:** O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

**People:** In wisdom have You made them all.

**Pastor:** May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

**People:** may the LORD rejoice in His works.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (*Silence for reflection on the Word of God and self-examination.*)

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**Pastor:** 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN** "Ancient Words"

Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the Ancient words impart

Words of Life, words of Hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home

**Chorus:** Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our Faith  
Handed down to this age  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh, heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the ancient words impart

**Chorus:** Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart

**Ending:** We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart

**FIRST READING** Acts 8:26–40 (*Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.*)

BACK OF BULLETIN

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 150**

- <sup>1</sup> 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 with 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!

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.  
God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,  
He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;  
He has put all things under His feet.

**EPISTLE** 1 John 4:1–11 (*An exhortation to lives of Christian love*)

BACK OF BULLETIN

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9, John 14:23*

**Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 15:1–8 (*Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.*)

BACK OF BULLETIN

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is read.)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **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.

**HYMN**                    “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”                    LSB 477

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

*(Stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

**SERMON “Why Not Abide?”**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:**                    Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:**                    **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** Holy, holy, holy LSB 161

Holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:

“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  
✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26, Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we  
proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and  
teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER** *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

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.

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** **And also with you. Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** Lamb of God

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**“In Christ Alone”**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

**“On What Has Now Been Sown”**

LSB 921

On what has now been sown  
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
The pow'r is Thine alone  
To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,  
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known,  
From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
Accept what is Thine own  
And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,  
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us,  
Now met before Thee here,  
May meet together thus  
When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.  
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

**SPOKEN**

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight  
of ev'ry people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your

people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:**           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.  
**People:**           **Amen.**

**YMN**                “Abide with Me”

LSB 878

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (please be seated)

**SENDING**

**Pastor:**           Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord**

Our “**tithes**” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “**Offerings**” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

*(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest, so please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit)*

**LOOSE COINS – LIGHTS FOR CHRIST SCHOLARSHIPS,**

**ZACAPA, GUATEMALA** --- This program offers the life-saving Gospel of Christ, food and clothing, health and sanitation care, scholarships and transportation to attend Divine Savior Lutheran School. This mission grant impacts impoverished Guatemalan children and their families who live in the ZACAPA GARBAGE DUMP. This grant will fund 90% of the projected costs for children in grades 7-12 to continue their education.

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**

**FIRST READING** Acts 10:34–48 (*People from every nation are accepted by God.*)

**PSALM** Psalm 98

**EPISTLE** 1 John 5:1–8 (*The victory of Christ overcomes the world.*)

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 15:9–17 (*Obeying Christ’s commands and remaining in His love*)

### First Reading: Acts 8:26–40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Phillip, "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 Phillip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Phillip 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 Phillip 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 Phillip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Phillip 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>37</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Phillip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>38</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Phillip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>39</sup>But Phillip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### Epistle: 1 John 4:1–11

<sup>1</sup>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, and 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.

<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.

### Holy Gospel: John 15:1–8

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine 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."



**About the Cover:** Christians, like branches, bear fruit. Such is the only possible result of branches being connected to Jesus, the vine. Jesus is our source of life. He is the source of the fruit that we bear. For in Jesus, there is never-ending life that conquered the grave in order to forgive and give us life. A life in Jesus always bears much fruit, so we need the Word of forgiveness and life poured into us each day.

