

## **Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS**

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Pastor Merelyn Snider

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Confirmation Sunday**

**May 2, 2021**

**Snatched by God's Grace**



**We welcome Daniel Eppler and Madysin Gray as Confirmed Members of Trinity.**

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### **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.

## Confession and Absolution

### 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

- 1 Alleluia!  
Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb,  
Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
Refrain
- ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 2 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. Refrain
- 3 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.  
Refrain
- 4 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. Refrain

- 5 City of God,  
Easter forever,  
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life,  
Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM!  
Refrain

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*Stand*

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive  
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our  
Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly**

**deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**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.**

*Stand*

## **Service of the Word**

### **Introit**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;

and again a little while, and you will see me.

I will extol you, my God and King,

and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O

LORD,

and all your saints shall bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,

and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**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.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
and again a little while, and you will see me.

## **Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **This Is the Feast**

*LSB 155*

- C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and  
join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to  
God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun  
His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **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. Amen.**

*Sit*

**First Reading**

*Acts 8:26–40*

**Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

<sup>26</sup>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. <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 Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip 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 Philip 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 Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

<sup>35</sup>Then Philip 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>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he

preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**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 4:1–21*

**Test the Spirits**

<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. 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.

**God Is Love**

<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. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**C Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**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**

<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.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

### **691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing**

1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,  
May we ripen and increase,

Fruit to life eternal growing,  
Rich in love and joy and peace.

2 Laden branches freely bearing  
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,  
Patience, kindness, gentleness.

3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,  
Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster,  
Goodness, faith, and self-control.

4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,  
May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending,  
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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**Sermon: Snatched by God's Grace**  
*10:24-30*

*John*

**Rite of Confirmation**

*LSB pg 272*

**Choir Anthem: Lead Me Lord**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and  
invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all  
worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,**

being of one substance with the  
Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our  
salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under  
Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the  
Father.

And He will come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and  
the Son,

who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian  
and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the  
dead

and the life ✝ of the world to come.  
Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer....**

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

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

*Sit*

**Offering**

*Stand*

**Offertory**

*LSB 159*

**C** **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**Service of the Sacrament**

## Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .  
evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 161*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r 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

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in

His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** 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 ✝ 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."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final

judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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.

### Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

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

**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**C** 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.

*Sit*

### Distribution

#### 637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

1 Draw near and take the body of the  
Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you  
outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for

least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the  
priest.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and  
shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the  
hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts  
sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation  
here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks  
endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us  
now.

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### **Distribution Hymn: 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has  
triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift He brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still He comes to give us life  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your  
triumph;

Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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### **Distribution Hymn: 912 Christ is Our Cornerstone**

1 Christ is our cornerstone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love  
Our hopes we place  
Of present grace  
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
When all the blest  
To endless rest  
Are called away.

△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

Text: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling  
take leave.  
The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who  
believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for  
all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and  
answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will  
face.  
Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe  
and race.  
With Your feast You feed us,  
With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we  
share.  
Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that  
we bear.

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*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 164*

**☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell  
ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.**

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

**C** **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### **921 On What Has Now Been Sown**

1 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!

2 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.

3 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!  
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## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran  
Service Book

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