

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ RUSSELL, KS

www.stjohnrussell.com ~ Facebook ~ KRSL (990 AM and 98.1 FM) ~ NexTech Cable Channel 130

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 1, 2021 - 6:00 pm



THEME: *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 that we read of 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.*



ORDER OF SERVICE

MUSIC TO PREPARE US FOR WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

(Congregation may stand as able)

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on us the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG..... “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” Green Hymnal **#245**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

ALL: 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.*

(Congregation may be seated)

READING OF THE FIRST LESSON: ACTS 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an 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.) ²⁷ So 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As 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?”³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When 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.⁴⁰ But 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.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 22:25-31

L: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

L: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

C: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

L: and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

READING OF THE SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

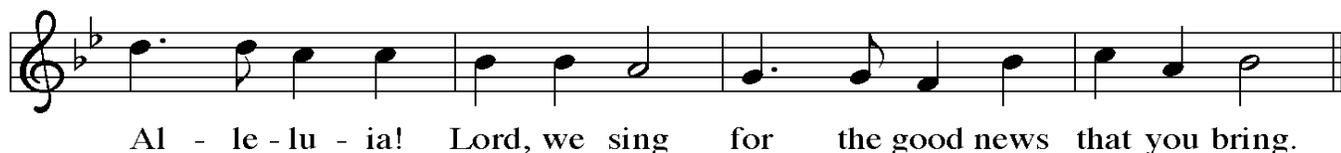
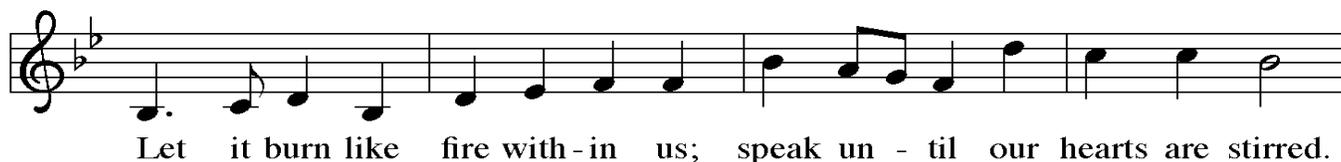
⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So 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. ¹⁷ Love 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. ¹⁸ There 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. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those 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. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Holy wisdom, holy word.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Congregation may stand as able)

ALLELUIA VERSE



READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Congregation may be seated)

SONG “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” Green Hymnal **#224**

THE SERMON

(Congregation may stand as able)

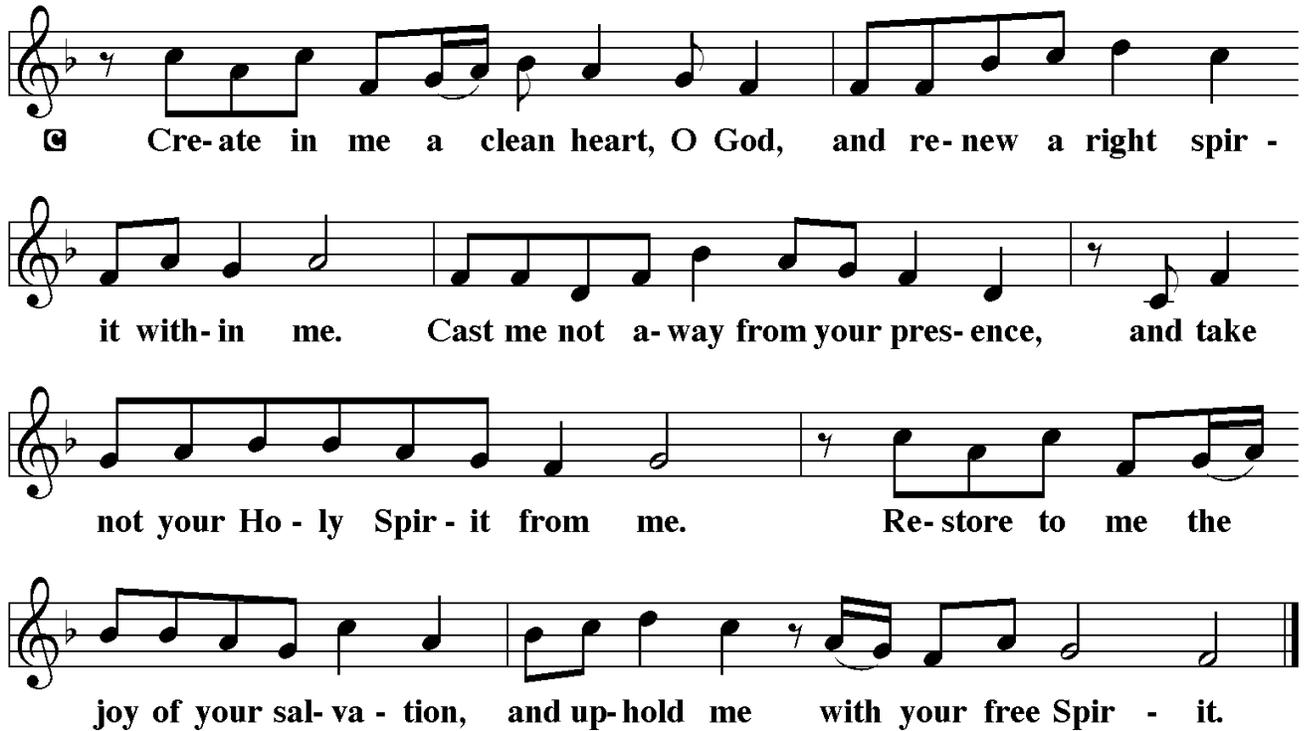
THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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 to the dead. 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.

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.

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

P: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

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

CLOSING SONG "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Blue Hymnal **#721**

POSTLUDE

*All Words and Music found within are reprinted under
OneLicense.net A-718798 except for that especially noted. All rights reserved.*

PLEASE NOTE:

The St. John Council met Wednesday, April 21, 2021. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by consensus to **continue with current COVID protocols through June 30, 2021 (masks are required, and social distancing protocols will be observed)**. The decision was based, in part, on the potential influx of visitors to the Russell area for graduations, Memorial Day gatherings, and Prairiasta events. The Council will revisit the issue at the June Council meeting. The final decision to lift St. John's COVID protocols will depend on several factors, including current positivity rates in the Russell area.

The St. John Council also discussed the **Council Treasurer position vacancy**. If you have a financial background, and would like to serve on the Council as the Treasurer, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

NEWSLETTER CORRECTION:

The Second Grade Bible Presentation and Graduate Recognition will NOT be held at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 16, 2021 as stated in the April newsletter.

- Student bibles will be presented to second **and** third graders at the beginning of the 2021-2022 Sunday School year.
- Graduate Recognition is scheduled for the 10:30 service on Sunday, July 25, 2021 (in conjunction with scholarship presentations).

If you or a loved one is graduating this May (junior high, high school, or college), please contact the church office as soon as possible.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A special thank to the **family of Edna Mai** who have shared flowers from her funeral service (Tuesday, April 27). Blessings to Edna's family and friends.

Two delegate positions (one male and one female) are still available for the upcoming **Central States Assembly**. This year's Assembly will be a virtual assembly on June 3 and 4, 2021. If you are interested in representing St. John Lutheran Church, please contact the church office as soon as possible (registration deadline is May 14).

St. John Women of the ELCA will resume their monthly meetings at 10:00 am, Thursday, May 6, 2021 in the Parish Hall. Election of officers and new bylaws will be on the agenda. All St. John women are invited to attend.

Barbara Dennis invites all women of the congregation to the annual (and her final!) **St. John Women in Fellowship Cinco de Mayo celebration** on Saturday, May 8 at 5:00 pm at 505 N Brooks. This year's celebration will be held outdoors (weather permitting). Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share (Mexican or Mexican-inspired). Watch for more information!

The **2020 and 2021 Confirmation Classes** will celebrate confirmation at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 16. Rehearsal is scheduled for 9:15 am that morning. Both classes will be confirmed, but separate class photos will be taken. Contact the church office for more information.

All St. John children 10 years of age or older who have not yet communed are welcome to attend **First Communion instruction** (with a parent or guardian) in the Parish Hall, at 9:15 am on Sunday, May 23 and Sunday, May 30. In the past, Pastor Dennis has offered first communion instruction to children under the age of ten, by parental request. Please contact the church office or Pastor if you would like your child to receive first communion instruction. First Communion will be celebrated at the 10:30 service on June 6, 2021.

Applications for the annual **St. John Lutheran Church scholarships**, generously offered by the Mai Family and the Earlin Nuss Family, are available on the St. John website (stjohnrussell.com). Hard copy applications are available in the church office. All completed applications must be received in the church office no later than Thursday, July 1.

St. John is searching for a **2021 Back-To-School Giveaway** Lead Coordinator and other helpers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office. Donations of new or gently worn clothing are welcome in all sizes, from preschool through senior high. Donations may be dropped off on the shelves above the coat rack in the main hallway. The Back-To-School Giveaway is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 12 and 13.

The St. John Education Committee is planning for in-person **Vacation Bible School** the first week of August (dates and times to be determined). If you would like to serve as VBS Coordinator or help with a team (compiling registrations, prepping craft materials and meals, supervising a class throughout the evening, teaching one or more lessons, etc.) please contact the church office.

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PRESENCE:

Care Center Residents
Ruth Ann Betts
John & Debbie Dumler
Penny Gagneaux
Doug Karst
Margaret Langhofer
Dustin Poche
Thurlene Ruggels
Keven Schneider
Mary Ulrich
Darlene Woelk

Homebound Members
DeAnna Carter
Neil Fischer
Angie Green
Arlene Kreier
Joetta Mai
Mary Reinhardt
Tiffany Russell
Gladys Standley
Kellie Walker

Larry Bernard
Nalisha Cotter
Wayne & Janet Funk
Robert Groff
DJ Kuhn
Mary Parkhurst
Randy Rohleder
Robert Schmitt
Cathy Trapp
Patricia Wise

Dwaine Flegler (brother-in-law of Juanita Flegler); **Donnie Gideon** (brother of Glenn Gideon, Darold Gideon, and Tammy Witte); **Kevin Gregg** (nephew of Kayla Meyer); **Cathy McClain** (friend of Ruth & Dean Keil and Juanita Flegler); **Martha Mink** (sister of Margaret Finkbeiner); **Brennan Soukup** (grandson of Tina Schaad-Claussen)

To keep weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters current, we review the "Prayers for God's Presence" listings from time to time. If a loved one's name is removed in error, please accept our apologies, and notify the church office.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
John 15:5

