



FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH

7075 Pacific Avenue S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503

www.faithlutheranlacey.org
www.flschool.org

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

W O R S H I P

8:15am – Traditional
9:30am – Gather & Grow
10:30am - Contemporary

C O N T A C T

Church: 360-491-3552
School: 360-491-1733
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Pastor: Greg Strand
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*“Raising Up
Families and Followers
of Jesus Christ”*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

8:15 am

I am the
True
vine

EASTER PEOPLE PROCLAIM

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

WELCOME CARDS/PRAYER REQUESTS *We ask all who are present today to please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate.*

+ PREPARATION +

971 THERE IS A REDEEMER



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

Text and tune: Melody Green, 1946, alt.

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INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

Leader Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

Congregation sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Leader Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

Congregation All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

Leader Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

Congregation who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Leader You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

Congregation I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

Congregation O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Leader God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

Congregation Amen.

Leader As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

Congregation Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21

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

Congregation I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

Leader Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

Congregation The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

Congregation 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.

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

SALUTATION

Leader The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader Let us pray.

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.

Congregation Amen.

MISSION MOMENT – Matt Koehler

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26–40*

²⁶An 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over

and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 150

Congregation Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!

Left Side Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Right Side Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

Left Side Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

Right Side Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

Congregation Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

**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.**

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1–11

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

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

Leader Christ has risen from the dead.

Congregation God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Leader He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

Congregation He has put all things under His feet.

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

Leader Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**Congregation 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*

Leader The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Pastor Greg

474 ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009 Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–87

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SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

Congregation 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.

OFFERING <https://faithlutheranlacey.breezechms.com/give/online>
or text to give, 360-732-8020.

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Leader 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,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader 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,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader 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 *[name(s)]* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader 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,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader 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,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader 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,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Congregation hear our prayer.**
- Leader We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Congregation Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Leader 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

691 FRUITFUL TREES, THE SPIRIT'S SOWING



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

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DISMISSAL

Leader Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Congregation **His is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader Go in peace as you serve our living Lord!
Congregation **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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