



**FAITH LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

7075 Pacific Avenue S.E.  
Lacey, WA 98503

[www.faithlutheranlacey.org](http://www.faithlutheranlacey.org)  
[www.flschool.org](http://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**

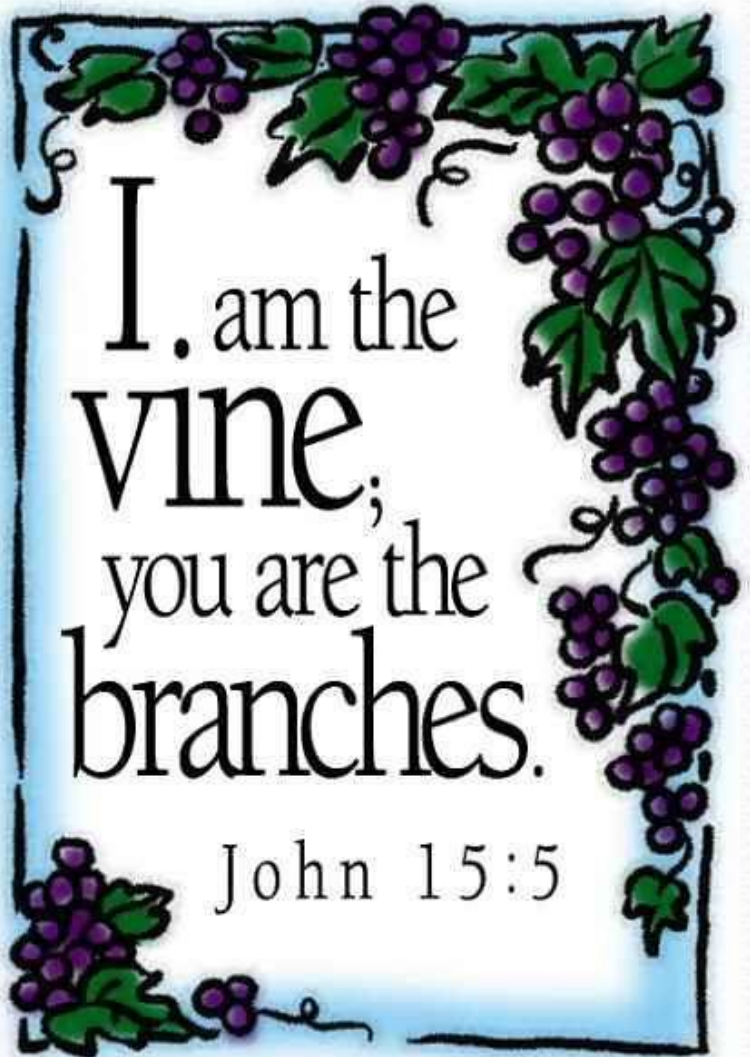
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*“Raising Up  
Families and Followers  
of Jesus Christ”*

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024

10:30 am



## 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.*

### Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

*Chorus*

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

*Verse 1*

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

*Verse 2*

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives  
Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart soul mind and strength  
We gladly choose You now

*Ending*

Come come just as you are come come

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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.**

## **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*

<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.

Reader                    This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation    Thanks be to God.**

### 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. 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.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL** *John 15:1–8*

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

**Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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.”

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Pastor Greg**

### **No Longer Slaves**

*Verse 1*

You unravel me with a melody  
You surround me with a song  
Of deliverance from my enemies  
Till all my fears are gone

*Chorus*

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

*Verse 2*

From my Mother's womb  
You have chosen me  
Love has called my name  
I've been born again into Your family  
Your blood flows through my veins

*Bridge*

You split the sea so I could walk right through it  
My fears were drowned in perfect love  
You rescued me so I could stand and sing  
I am a child of God

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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.

### 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.**

## **Resurrecting**

### *Verse 1*

The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now  
The Savior knelt to wash our feet  
Now at his feet we bow

### *Verse 2*

The one who wore our sin and shame  
Now robed in majesty  
The radiance of perfect love  
Now shines for all to see

*Chorus*  
Your name  
Your name  
Is victory  
All praise  
Will rise  
To Christ our king

*Verse 3*  
The fear that held us now gives way  
To him who is our peace  
His final breath upon the cross  
Is now alive in me

*Bridge*  
By your spirit I will rise  
From the ashes of defeat  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me  
In your name I come alive  
To declare your victory  
The resurrected king  
Is resurrecting me

*Verse 4*  
The tomb where soldiers watched in vain  
Was borrowed for three days  
His body there would not remain  
Our God has robbed the grave  
Our God has robbed the grave

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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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