



Fifth Sunday in Easter ***Granite Falls Lutheran Church***

May 2, 2021
9:00 am

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 described 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Teacher and Educator Appreciation and Blessing

At this time, we invite everyone who taught Sunday school this past year to stand up

C: Thank you for planting the seeds of faith with our children.

Thank you for your time and effort to raise the next generation!

We invite those who served on the education committee this past year to stand up.

C: Thank you for guiding our congregation's efforts for our youth and children. Thank you for your time and effort to raise the next generation!

Bible Presentations to Pre-K (4-year-olds), 2nd graders & 7th graders

P: Beloved children of God, on the day you were baptized, you were made a child of God and welcomed into this community. We at Granite Falls Lutheran Church all know following Jesus brings us joy and meaning, and is the most precious gift we can offer. Would you like to join us in our goal of following Jesus? If so, please say 'yes.'

Students: Yes.

P: Parents, you made vows during your child's baptism that you would place in their hands the scriptures, and raise them in the Christian faith. Today you are fulfilling part of that oath. The remainder of that oath is fulfilled by raising your child in the faith, teaching them about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and living lives of Christian service. Do you promise to do your best to continue raising your child in the faith? If so, please say 'yes, with the help of God.'

Parents: Yes, with the help of God.

(Presentation of bibles from parents to students)

P: Dear members of Granite Falls Lutheran Church, as we lift up these children and these parents, we also ask that you all do your part to raise these children in the faith. Will you support these parents and

children in the faith? Will you volunteer your time and talent to raise them in the faith? Will you welcome them on the path of following Jesus Christ? If so, please say 'yes, with the help of God.'

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

P: Thanks be to God for these students, for these parents, for this congregation, and for these bibles that instruct future generations in the faith we hold dear. Amen

***Gathering Hymn** "Now the Green Blade Rises" #379

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Gathered together as one body of Christ, let us confess our sin on this day of celebration and preparation. Holy God:

C: You know our faults and our mistakes. While we have tried to live up to your guidance, we know the ways we have failed. Help us to see the face of Christ in every stranger, to act with generosity in the face of scarcity, and to live lives that give you glory.

P: As the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it, so does the forgiveness of Christ wipe away your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. + See the face of Christ in every stranger, act with generosity, and live to the glory of God. Amen.

C: Amen.

***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.

***Kyrie and This is the Feast** (sung) pg 147-150

P: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.* C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: *For the peace from above.....* C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: *For the peace of the whole world...* C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: *For this holy house....* C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: *Help, save comfort, ...* C: **Amen**

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

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

C: **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.**

First Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

Responsive Psalm:

P: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

P: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

P: ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

C: ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

P: ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

*Gospel Acclamation

(sung)

pg 151

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia

*Gospel

John 15: 1-8

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

(afterwards - age 4 thru 1st grade go to Children's Church)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" vs. 1-4 #377

*Apostles Creed

*Prayers of the Church

(sung)

#180

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Enter into our prayers, O Spirit of Christ:

C: **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express, Oh...**

P:(after each petition.).... Let us pray...

C: **The Spirit....**

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

(sung) (pg.152)

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 our thanks and praise.*

(preface continues)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving

(sung)

(pg.153)

C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Holy Communion Words of Institution / The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion Distribution

Hymns

"Come to the Table"

#481

"As the Grains of Wheat"

#465

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

#484

Post Communion Prayer

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

#205

Worship Participants

Ministers	<i>All of us gathered to worship</i>
Lead Pastor	<i>Mark Manning</i>
Associate Pastor	<i>Paul Drees</i>
Organ/Piano	<i>Lynn Ullrich</i>
Reader	<i>Shawnn Martin</i>

Congratulation to todays bible recipients:

Pre-K (4 yr olds): Baylor Anderson, Maddox Anderson, Merrick Aus, Otilia Balfany, Reese Blankenhagen, Noah Eggebraaten, Rachel Hauger, Lucy Lufkins, Sawyer Lufkins Nash Richter, Andrew Soine, & Grace Stuhr.

2nd Graders: Emmit Aus, Addison Doyle, Luke Hauger, Madison Hempel, McKendree Luepke, Karsen Parliament, Gage Richter, Laney Santjer, Lauren Soine, and Jaime Ochoa.

7th Graders: Wyatt Ansel, Braden Eisenbacher, Aubree Enstad, Abby Gullickson, Evelyn Martin, Alyssa Moe, Gavin Torvik, and Abbie Winter

News & Announcements

Calendar this week: Please check the church website for changes.

Tuesday	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
	5:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Education Committee Meeting
Saturday	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship and FB live

Future Calendar Dates

5/16: 75th + 1 Anniversary Kick-Off Worship

5/23: High School Senior Graduate Recognition Sunday

We are excited to commemorate the 75th anniversary of our church (plus one). We are contacting former pastors and sons/daughters of the congregation to join us in recognizing this milestone. Our kickoff Sunday will be May 16, 2021, and continue celebrating for six months.

The GFLC Outreach Committee would like to thank all those that shared financial support through noisy offering and other contributions to our current outreach to Mollie Varpness. This financial support will certainly aid in her educational expenses as she continues her journey as a Luther Seminary Student. Thank you for making a difference.

First Reading Acts 8 26-40

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

Gospel

John 15: 1-8

Jesus said:] 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."

“Now the Green Blade Rises” #379

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! #377

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!

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise #205

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.
Send us with your promises, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

Come to the Table #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

As the Grains of Wheat # 465

Refrain:

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.*

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain:**

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. **Refrain:**

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart #484

Refrain

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, we follow and rejoice. **Refrain**

With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heav'nly food.

Refrain

Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.

Refrain

You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name in truth and charity. **Refrain**