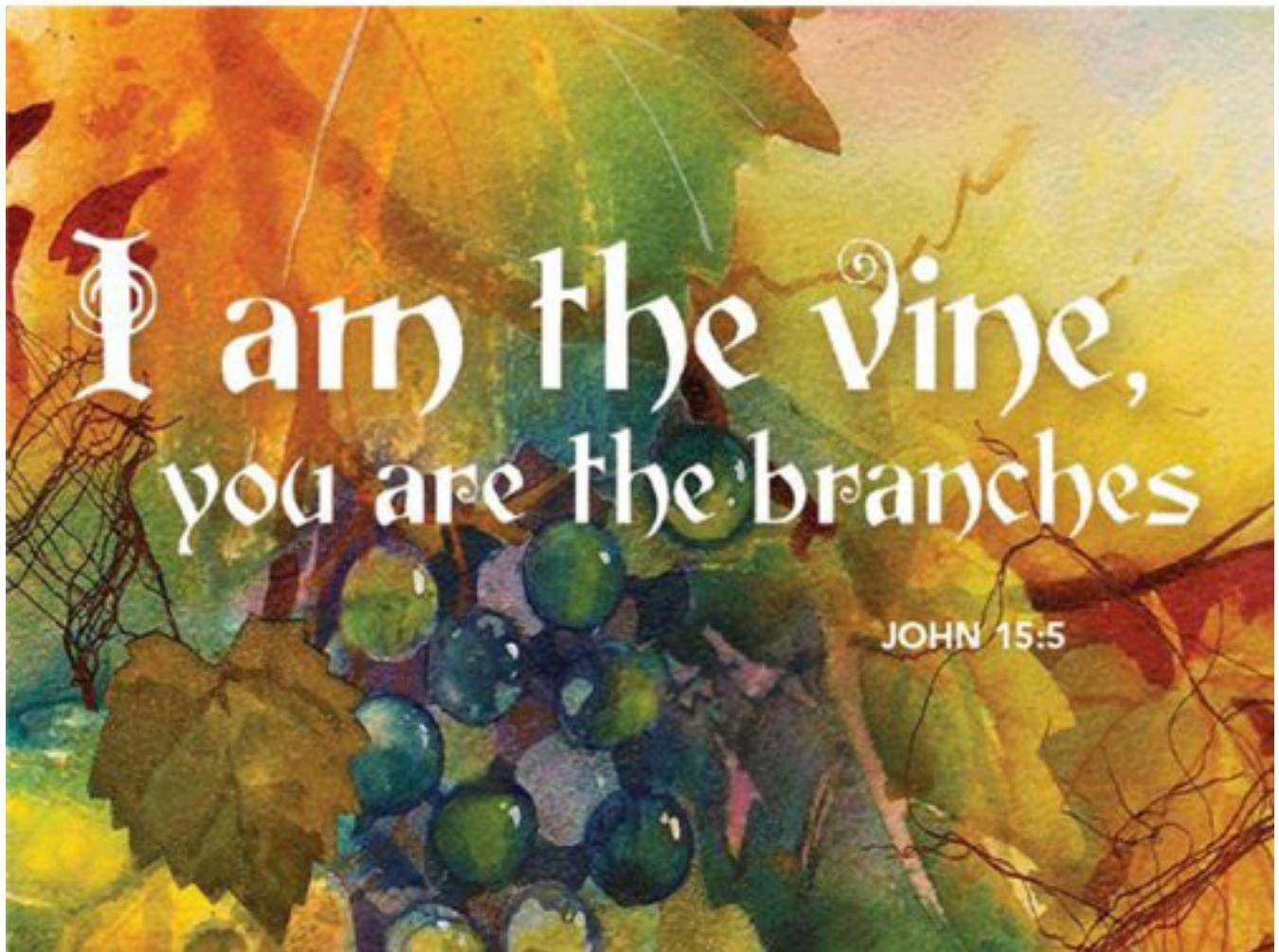


Joy Lutheran Church

10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road, Eagle River, AK 99577

Office: 907.694.9601 www.joy-lutheran.com joylutheran@gmail.com

May 2, 2021



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You’re welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don’t like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.

Offering: Our offering plates are set at the entrance doors of the sanctuary. Thank you for giving of your resources to sustain the ministries here at Joy Lutheran Church.

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Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. - Now the Feast

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

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Unison Prayer of Confession

C: We carry our fears around with us, yet you ask us to toss them aside.

You invite us to sit with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands.

You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted your seeds of grace deep within us; Help us bear rich and nourishing fruit for others.

May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

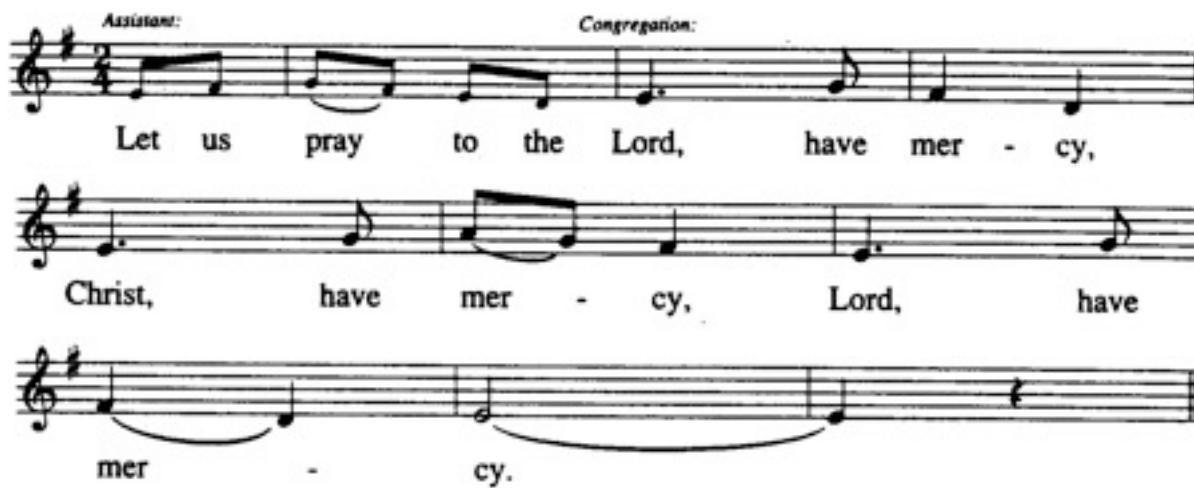
(Silence is kept.)

Assurance of Pardon

L: God abides in you! God is living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. In the name of the risen Christ, your sins are forgiven. This is the good news for us!

Kyrie

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

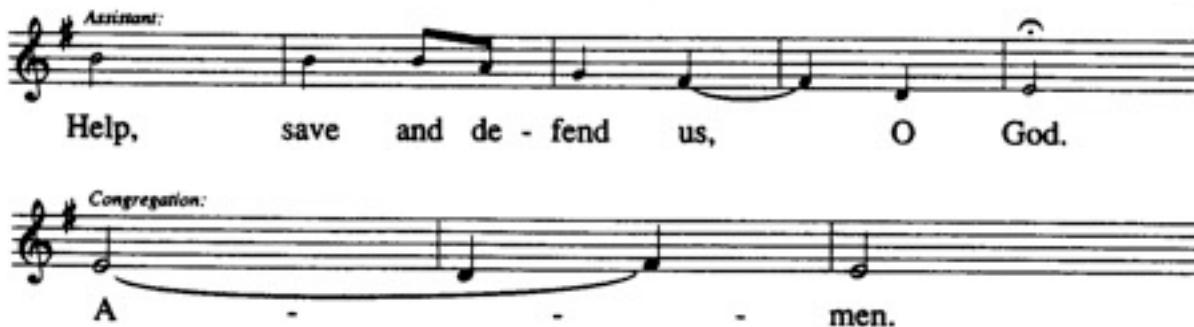


Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy, Lord, have
mercy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...(Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...(Refrain)



Assistant: Congregation:

Help, save and defend us, O God.
A - - - men.

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cele - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and uni -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er.

To refrain

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God; to make
all things new.

To refrain

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. O God,

C: **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.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An 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.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

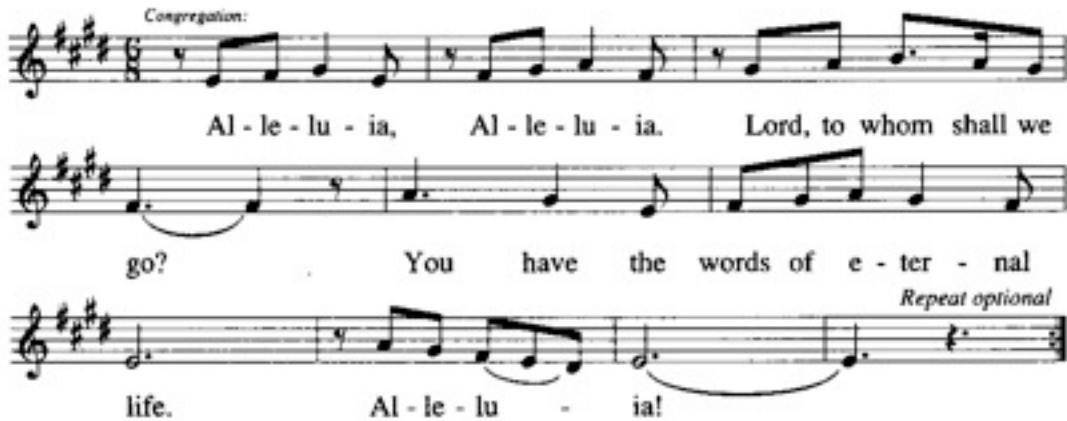
⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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.

¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Verse (sung as we stand to hear Jesus' words)



Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[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.”

Sermon

Pastor Karen Sonray

Hymn of the Day*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, love by hated slain,
3. Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
think - ing that he would never wake again,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life again,

love lives again, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come again like wheat arising green.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)

Prayers of the Church (brief silence, then various petitions)

(response said after each petition)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

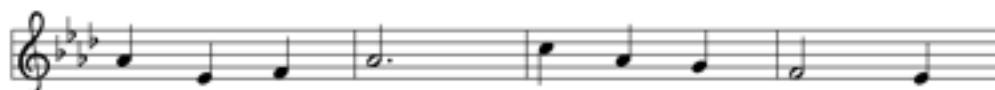
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen

ELW 377 (v. 1-3)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry;
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorm us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



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

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants for Today

Pianists:	Readers:	Acolyte:	Song Leader:	Counters:
Kathy Huntington	Nancy D. & Riley L.	AbieLiz	Mona M.	Heather S.



Flowers are given by
Dan & Nancy Daugherty
in celebration of their 51st anniversary



Preview Of Upcoming Week

Sunday, May 2	8:30 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Sunday School & Confirmation Boy Scout Troop 219
Monday, May 3	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous
Tuesday, May 4	3:30 PM 6:30 PM	The Singers Group - <i>Brause Fellowship Hall</i> Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday, May 5	6:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday, May 6	6:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday, May 7	- All Day - 6:30 PM	Church Office Closed on Fridays Narcotics Anonymous
Saturday, May 8		
<i>The Following Week:</i>		
Sunday, May 9	9:30 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Sunday School & Confirmation Boy Scouts Troop 219
Monday, May 10	6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Eaglewood HOA Annual Meeting - <i>Brause Fellowship Hall</i> Narcotics Anonymous

Church Office Hours

Monday 9:30am - 4:00pm
 Tues. - Wed. 10:00am - 5:00pm
 Thursday 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Closed Friday

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sue Weimer, Pres.	Tom Bird, Vice Pres.
Scooter Bentson, Sec.	Debby Bird
Corrine Finnie	Kelly Mullin
Rachel Christman	Heather Slocum
Kristi Swain	Charlotte Kotlarchuk
Pastor Karen Sonray	Clarke Hemphill, Treasurer

The next Church
Council Meeting will
be Tuesday, May 11
at 7:00pm.

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household.
3. No use of hymnals.
4. Holy Communion will be offered normally on the second Sunday of the month using good protocol outline below.***
5. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously.
6. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
7. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
8. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
9. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
10. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
11. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
12. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
13. All coffee and food is suspended at this time. Exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

***COMMUNION PROTOCOL

- *Wafers and Cups are individually sealed. Some are marked “gluten free.”*
- *People will be ushered forward in staggered intervals, take their communion, return to seat*
- *You may partake in your communion any time after you are seated again.*