

Easter 5

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

The love of Christ is evidenced in the way we live our lives. Nothing good can be done apart from God. It is the Spirit of God that leads us into opportunities to share this love, as is evidenced by the way in which Philip was led to meet the Ethiopian eunuch and explain the Good News to him. It is God’s desire that all people would come to know him and be a part of the true vine that is the Kingdom of Heaven.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 8:26–40

The Spirit Leads Philip

Philip’s journey led him to a road between Jerusalem and Gaza where he encountered an Ethiopian eunuch reading scripture from the prophet Isaiah. Philip seized the opportunity to explain the scripture to the Ethiopian and preach the Good News concerning Jesus to him. This spontaneous conversation led to the baptism of the Ethiopian man.

Psalm 150

Sing God’s Praises

Praise the Lord in all ways, in all places, and at all times. The psalmist proclaims “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)

Test the Spirits

The message here continues John’s theme of love. Again, the emphasis is on actions that display love as the hallmark of divine love. No matter how eloquently we speak of love, if our actions are the antithesis of our words, then God’s love is not in us. We are able to live such lives of love only as a response to the love which God has first lavished upon us.

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1–8

I Am the Vine

Jesus used the familiar image of a vine to describe the nature of our dependent relationship with him. Referring to himself as the true vine that gives life to and supports the entirety of the bush, Jesus declared that nothing good could be done apart from his life-giving presence.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- Today’s Scriptures offer a wonderful opportunity to focus on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Draw from the Small Catechism and use it as a teaching time to strengthen understanding of the means of grace.
- The Holy Spirit grants us the gift of faith and we are sealed with the cross of Christ forever – whether we are baptized as infants, children, or as an adult like the Ethiopian.
- How do you prepare people to be ready to share the Good News of Christ when the time comes?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Where Charity and Love Prevail	126	---	845	359	---	---
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
Baptized in Water	---	693	---	456	---	---
O Blessed Spring	---	695	595	447	---	---
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
If You Will (But) Trust in God to Guide...	453	---	750	769	222	222
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
On Our Way Rejoicing	260	---	---	537	---	web
Lord, As Incense Rises Before Thee	---	---	---	---	---	web

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Rise (CCLI# 5894244)
The Vine (CCLI# 4442082)
Precious Love (CCLI# 7180004)
Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery (CCLI# 7026028)
Abide (CCLI# 7168160)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.