



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**  
**Canoga Park Lutheran Church**  
**7357 Jordan Ave.**  
**Canoga Park, CA**  
**818-348-5714 [www.cplchurch.org](http://www.cplchurch.org)**

#### **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 AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"**

"I was there to hear your bawling cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

When you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your bawling cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."

## INVOCATION

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

*Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;*

**People: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

*Pastor: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"*

**People: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

*Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,*

**People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

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

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

*Pastor: We prepare for our time of confession as we sing the confession hymn, "O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art." As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[From Luther's small Catechism-Section 4]

*P: Do you believe that you are a sinner?*

**C: Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.**

*P: How do you know this?*

**C: From the Ten Commandments; these I have not kept.**

*P: Are you sorry for your sins?*

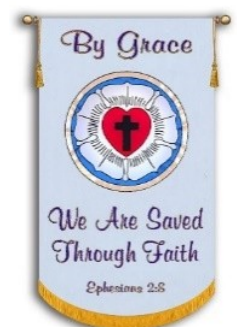
**C: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**

*P: What have you deserved of God by your sins?*

**C: I deserve his wrath and displeasure, temporal death and eternal damnation.**

*P: Do you also hope to be saved?*

**C: Yes, such is my hope.**



*P:* In whom then, do you trust?  
**C:** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.  
*P:* What has Christ done so that you trust in Him?  
**C:** He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.  
*P:* Why should we remember and proclaim His death?  
**C:** That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and true man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.  
*P:* What was it that moved Him to die and make satisfaction for your sins?  
**C:** His great love to His Father and to me and to other sinners.  
*P:* Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

*(Note: these questions and answers are no child's play but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; or as St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked.")*

**Kyrie**

LSB 168

*A* In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

*A* For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

*A* For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

*A* For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

*A* Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

**This Is the Feast**

LSB 171

*A* This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
 whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
 Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and  
 hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.  
 This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God. Al - le -  
 lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of  
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:  
 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Pastor: 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.*

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! <sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

<sup>4</sup>When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

<sup>5</sup>Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, <sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING**

**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.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

**“Easter Song”**

**Jubilate Ringers**

*(by Ann Haring; arranged by John F. Wilson)*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 15:1–8**

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



☐ Glo - ry 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."



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

### APOSTLES' CREED

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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen

### SERMON SONG

♪ Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me ♪

### SERMON

“ Faith – Connected”

John 15:1-8

### POST SERMON SONG

♪ Majesty ♪

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Pastor: 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,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: 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,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: 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,*

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: 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,*

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: 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,*

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: 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,*

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

#### **SPECIAL PETITIONS**

*Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**People:** **Amen.**

#### **ANTHEM**

**“ Jireh ”**

## **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION FOR FAITH ANNA-MARIE DELGADO**



#### **BLESSING**

*Pastor: 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.*

**People:** **Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

**“ Children of the Heavenly Father ”**

**LSB No. 725**



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en    Such a ref - uge    e'er was    giv - en.  
spares them;    In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth,    And their sor - rows    all He know - eth.  
sole - ly    To pre - serve them    pure and    ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### We Are...

Canoga    Caring  
Park    People  
Lutheran    Loving  
Church    Christ!

