

**“I am
the
true
vine ...”**



John 15:1

May 02, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Office: (510) 793-6285

May 02, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

PRELUDE . . . *“We Know That Christ Is Raised”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is risen!

All: Alleluia!

P: The tomb is empty!

All: Alleluia!

P: Christ is alive!

All: Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our
lives.

**All: We need not look up to find God, we need only to look
around:**

L: within ourselves, beyond ourselves,

All: into the eyes of another.

L: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
All: we need only listen to the music of life,
L: the words of children,
All: the questions of the curious,
L: the rhythm of a heartbeat.
**All: We worship the God who inhabits our world and who
indwells our lives.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give
thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for
these waters where you make us new,*

All: leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

*P: We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the
grace-filled waters of rebirth,*

All: like rains to our thirsting earth,

P: like streams that revive our souls,

All: like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

*P: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.*

All: Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P: Make us one, risen Christ.

All: Cleanse our hearts.

P: Shower us with life.

**All: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory
of God, now and forever. Amen.**



GREETING

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

LITANY . . . *adapted from “Prayer of Thanksgiving: For Love” by Bruce Prewer*

L: Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts of God’s creating and redeeming love,

All: the loving that casts out all fear.

L: For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore, to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities, to build theories and then cross-examine them.

All: We thank you, God of adventurous love.

L: For the love that helps us to communicate with one another, to express trust and respect, share heartaches and visions, to convey love and mercy.

All: We thank you, God of reconciling love.

L: For the love that inspires us to encourage those around us, to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten.

All: We thank you, God of nurturing love.

L: For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us in poetry and song, to delight in shapes and colors, intricacies and patterns, awesome forces and deep mysteries.

All: We thank you, God of visionary love.

L: Above all else we thank you for the love that allows us to admit that we have no words in which to adequately describe the process of faith in Christ,

All: the awesome worship of our God, and the holy wonder of the Spirit.

L: We thank you for that point where our love becomes wordless adoration.

All: Through Christ Jesus, who is the pure glory of your loving. Amen!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

All: 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: God of light and love,

All: open our hearts to your message of unity.

Reader: Open our minds to the light of your wisdom.

All: Open our lives to the call of your Spirit.

Reader: Reveal to us your holy presence,

All: as we listen and learn this day. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOSPEL . . . *John 15:1-8*

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

All: Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

L: Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

All: for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: 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. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

BLESSING

P: When it takes hold, resurrection doesn't let go,

All: it shakes the dead awake,

P: it shakes the darkness from the light,

All: it shakes the silence from our throats and it wrestles death from all that is dying.

P: Let us go out into the world and in the upheaval of resurrection

All: seek out the life. Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

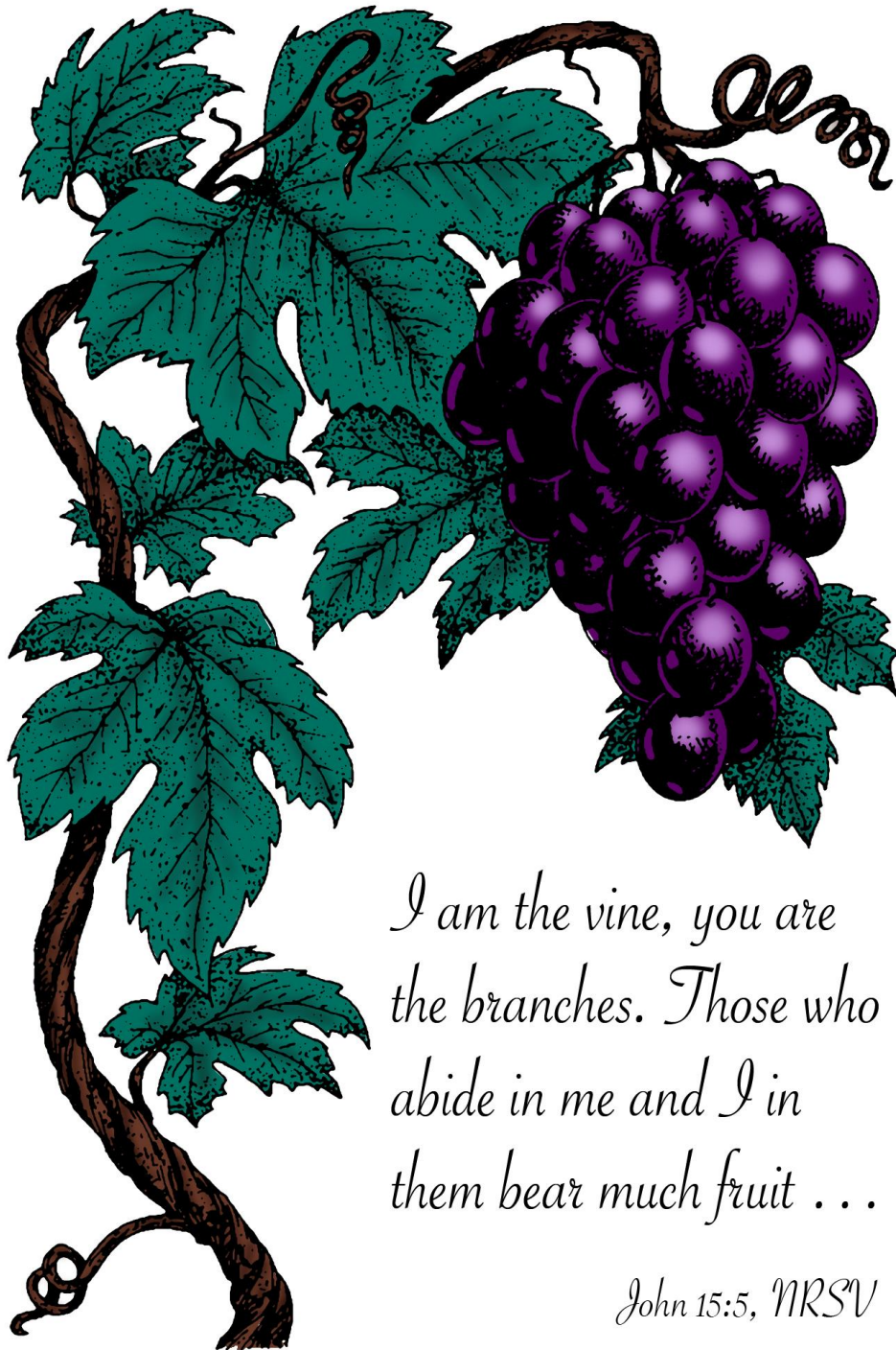
L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE . . . "Jesus Shall Reign"

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff
Lay Liturgist: Sharon Pickering
Reader: Sally Bentley
Music: Leilani Camara
Video Editing: Carmen Blair
Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema



*I am the vine, you are
the branches. Those who
abide in me and I in
them bear much fruit . . .*

John 15:5, NRSV