

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**

**700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
  
- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.
  
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.
  
- 4 Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88  
Text: Public domain

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**Introit**

*Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
**and again a little while, and you will see me.**  
I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name forever and ever.**  
Every day I will bless you  
**and praise your name forever and ever.**  
The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**  
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
**and all your saints shall bless you!**  
My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
**and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
**and again a little while, and you will see me.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.  
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

- 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 mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### This Is the Feast

*LSB 155*

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

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

### First Reading

*Acts 8:26–40*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**he has put all things under his feet.**

### Epistle Reading

*1 John 4:1–21*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

- C** **Alleluia.**  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

### Holy Gospel Reading

*John 15:1–8*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

- 1 **Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,**  
May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing,  
Rich in love and joy and peace.
- 2 **Laden branches freely bearing**  
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,  
Patience, kindness, gentleness.
- 3 **Rooted deep in Christ our Master,**  
Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster,  
Goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 **Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,**  
May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending,  
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

## Sermon “The Branches” John 15:1-8

### Apostles’ Creed

**C** 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 † everlasting. Amen.

### Offering

### Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### Prayer of the Church

- P** ...Lord, in your mercy:  
**C** Hear our prayer.  
**P** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

### Lord’s Prayer

*LSB 162*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

## 540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

*sts. 1, 3, 5–6*

- 1** Christ, the Word of God incarnate,  
Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father,  
Perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,  
Light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence,  
Grant us grace to heed Your call.
- 3** Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant  
From the stump of Jesse’s tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches  
To bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior;  
Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard  
Till eternal life we gain.
- 5** Christ, the way that leads unailing  
To the Father’s home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father,  
Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions,  
There to share Your wedding feast.
- △ 6** Christ, the Alpha and Omega,  
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection,  
Christ, the Church’s glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration  
And unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit  
And to You eternally.

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### Acknowledgments

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