

**Leader: The Word of the Lord**  
**Sermon by Reverend Nicole A.M. Collins**

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ**

**PEACE**

**PRAYER CIRCLE**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Please take this opportunity to reflect in your heart how this Means of Grace—Christ actual presence feeds and restores your soul. As St. Paul would say: Listen with your heart wide open. Then, TASTE, SEE & DELIGHT that the Lord is Good!*

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *Please recite what version is comfortable for you. (Please be seated)*

**Irenaeus' Rules of Faith** *(Please be seated)*

**ALL:** We Believe in one God, the Father Almighty, who made the heaven and the earth and the seas and all the things that are in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was made flesh for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who made known through the prophets the plan of salvation, and the coming, and the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead, and the bodily ascension into heaven of the beloved Christ Jesus, our Lord, and his future appearing from heaven in the glory of the Father to sum up all things and to raise anew all flesh of the whole human race. AMEN

**Prayer for Spiritual Formation**

**Leader:** Dear Lord Jesus,  
St. John is right,  
If we love one another  
God lives in us and His love is perfected in us  
Help our hearts to abide in praise, worship and honor  
To You O Lord who is the True Vine dresser  
Equip and trim  
away what has gone astray  
In our faithful formation to Your Living & Holy Word  
May we bear much fruit for Your Gospel's sake  
Serving You and neighbor in an abiding love  
Not of this world but truly of Your Holy Kingdom

**ALL: AMEN**

*(Please observe a moment of Silence)*

**BENEDICTION**

**Scattering Proclamation** *(Inspired from Luther's prayer #125--For Christ-like Service to Neighbors)*

Leader: Lord, You give yourself so richly and abundantly... I Pray that I may do to my neighbor as You do to me. In the name of the Father, † Son & Holy Spirit **ALL: AMEN** *(Please make the sign of the Cross)*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF THE EVENING**

*The Grace Hub* † Sunday Morning Worship †

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**PRELUDE MUSIC**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GATHERING WE CONFESS**

*(inspired by 'We Believe' Article 1, God, Psalm 150 & Martin Luther's Prayer 2#- For Help to Overcome a Sense of Unworthiness, 3#-Praise for Christ's Love & Setting 3 from the LCMS hymnal)  
(Please stand if able)*

**Leader:** <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! <sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! <sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! <sup>4</sup>Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! <sup>5</sup>Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup>Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

**ALL: God, You are named Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, names of lowliness, names of the earth. As You live with us here, as well as in heaven, you still create from the dust, preserve with Your Spirit, and fill us with Your presence through Jesus Christ, our Lord. For Your goodness, love, wisdom, and companionship, receive our thanks, now and forever. Amen.**

**Leader:** "Lord, it is for your honor and to your service that I now ask. Oh be praised and glorified. I plead, fully aware that you have glory, and that I am a poor, undeserving sinner. I cannot be without your help. You are willing and able to grant it to all who ask for it. Oh see my need and misery, and help me for your honor's sake."

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader:** With Luther we confess & Praise God—

**ALL: "Oh gracious God, I am fully aware that I am unworthy. I deserve to be a brother of Satan and not of Christ. But Christ, your dear Son, died and rose for me. I am his brother. He earnestly desires that I should believe him, without doubt and fear. I need no longer regard myself as unworthy and full of sin. For this I love and thank him from my heart. Praise be to the faithful Savior, for he is so gracious and merciful as are you and the Holy Spirit in eternity. Amen."**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Leader:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a servant of the Word, announce the Grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **ALL: AMEN** *(Please make the sign of the Cross) †*

**Scripture Lessons for the Morning** *(please be seated)*

**A Reading from The Book of Acts** *(Don't read this aloud: Acts 8:26-40)*

<sup>26</sup>Then an 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord** **ALL: Thanks Be to God**

**A Reading from the 1st Letter of John**

*(Don't read this aloud: 1 John 4:1-21)*

<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. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world

listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: 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 loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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.

<sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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.

<sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord** **ALL: Thanks Be to God**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John**

*(Don't read this aloud: John 15:1-8)* **Please Stand**

**Leader: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John**

**ALL: Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>15</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.