

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 28, 2024

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

St. James Lutheran Church

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA

www.StJamesGettysburg.org

Welcome to St. James. Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Hymns are found in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* located in the chair rack in front of you and are referenced in this bulletin as ELW#. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

P Presider **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister **L** Lay Reader

The 8:15 worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

The Paschal Candle was lit for the first time on Easter Eve and remains lit during the Easter Season to show the presence of the risen Christ among his people. Thereafter, it is lit at baptisms and funerals as a sign of dying and rising with Christ, of our death and his life.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

C **Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

P We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

C **To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN: *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ELW 449

*PASTORAL GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

C **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

(8:15): *Come to the Water of Life*

Ray Makeever, arr. Tom Witt

¹All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love; all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come: come to the Water of life. ²All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch; all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come: come to the Water of life ³All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth; all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come: come to the Water of life. ⁴All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace; all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come: come to the Water of life. (Ray Makeever)

(10:45): *O Blessed Spring*

Robert Buckley Farlee

¹O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree. ²Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears, sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again. ³When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love. ⁴As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring. ⁵Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery: that word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life. (Susan Palo Cherwien)

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them,

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

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am the vine, you | are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit. (John 15:5)

*HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *There in God's Garden*

ELW 342

*APOSTLES' CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions conclude: “God of grace,” Our response: “**Hear our prayer.**”

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: *There in God's Garden*

Robert Buckley Farlee

*OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

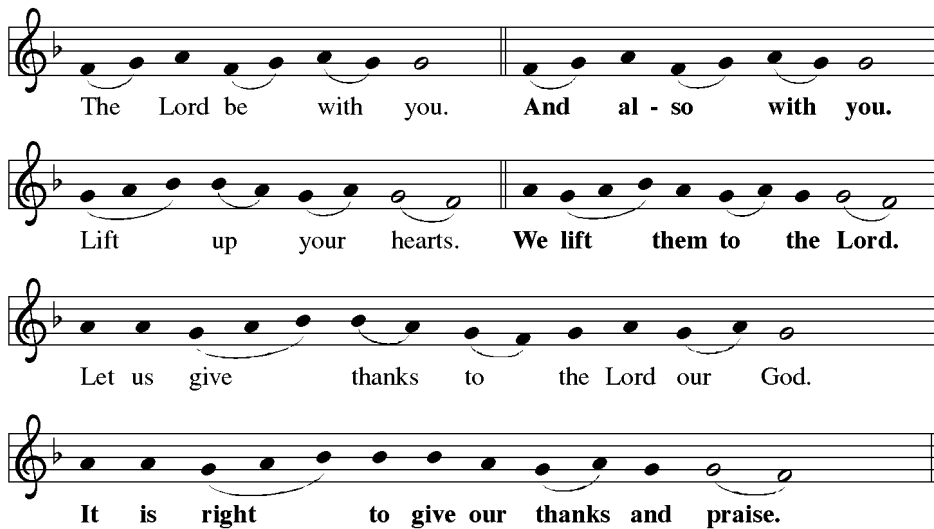


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

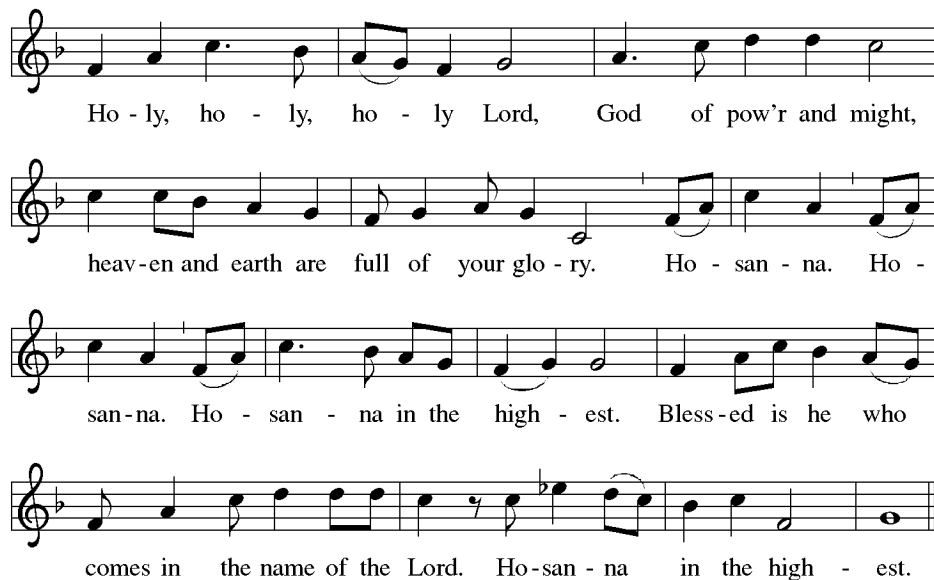
A Let us pray.**C** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*INVITATION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come one, come all, the feast is spread! An usher will give you a cup and guide you toward the platform. During the continuous flow, please fill in spaces starting at the front of the platform completing the circle. We offer a chalice with grape juice first, followed by a chalice of wine. Please indicate your preference by extending your glass at the appropriate time. Rice crackers are available for those with gluten allergies. If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will receive the sacrament while seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*COMMUNION HYMN: *Bread of Life from Heaven*

ELW 474

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A *Let us pray:* Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

BLESSING*[P]** Alleluia! Christ is risen!**[C]** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!****[P]** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚
bless you now and always.**[C]** **Amen.*****SENDING HYMN:** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

ELW 403

DISMISSAL*[A]** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.**[C]** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**POSTLUDE: *We Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ*setting, Johann Sebastian Bach

Lift Up in Prayer

Taylor Balderas	Nita Gross	Colleen Smith	Darryl
Helen Bardell	Jean Hobbs	Irelyn Sprenkle	Herb
Bob Campbell	Billy Jones	John Steinberger	Karen
Daniel Dulisse	Ricky Hernberger	Michelle Steinberger	Lee
Dr. Douglas Eyer	Jack Lally	Jeff Snyder	Lisa S.
Joanne Fisher	Jen Mickelson	Ken Unger	Luke
Tim Fleming	Mary Alice Nutter	Sean Vora	Marilyn
Chrissy Freed	Mindy & Harold Plank	Amy	Paul
Jim Gallagher	Barbara Sanders	Angie	Tim
Hazel and Frank	John Seilhamer	Ashley	Wayne
George	Lisa Sites	Beverly	
Justin Griest	Nicholas Smeal	Bill	

We pray for the family and friends of Sarah Scott-Mullen, who recently died. May they find comfort and peace in the promise of your eternal kingdom.

We rejoice with Jeff Smith and Kourtney Hoke, in their union of marriage on 4/27/24.

We pray for our youth and volunteers that are attending the High School Retreat at Camp Nawakwa this weekend. May they stay safe in their travels, make memories that last a lifetime, and allow their faith in You to continue to grow.

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my mother, Mary, by John Doerfler.

In loving memory of my husband, Milton Nicks, by his wife Barbara.

Announcements

Bible Study with Pastor Andrew: Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. We will begin reading and studying “Wrestling with Doubt Finding Faith” by Adam Hamilton.

Springtime Book Club: Mondays at 4 pm at The Upper Crust. Reading & discussing *Holy People, Holy Lives: Law & Gospel in Bioethics*, by Richard Eyer. See Vicar Libby with questions.

Council Nominations: These will be accepted at worship today during both services. Elections will be held 5/18 and 5/19, at all three services.

CROP Hunger Walk: Today @ 1 pm at the YWCA. You can participate as a team or individual walker. DixieMix Band will be the event registration entertainment! Contact Jesse Holt or Suzanne Hubbard with questions.

Save The Date for Vicar Libby’s Ordination: Sunday May 5 at 2pm at Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg. Catered reception to follow at St. James. All are welcome!!



VBS Save-the-Date: June 3-7 at St. James. See Adam Michael to volunteer. Registration for youth is now open.



Giving to St. James: Your financial gift allows St. James to do great things! Our mission is to live & love like Jesus. We serve and support our community – both locally & globally. Your gift and support make a difference in our community & world. Thank you! Scan the QR code or visit StJamesGettysburg.org/give.





Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what's happening at St. James:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Portions of the liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. "Come to the Water of Life" © 1999, 2020 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. "O Blessed Spring" © 1994 Augsburg Fortress. Gospel Acclamation © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Offertory © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Print and streaming permissions granted by Augsburg Fortress License #SAS024997, CCLI License #2678434, and OneLicense.net #A-707473.

Serving in Worship

Preacher

Vicar Libby Baker-Mikesell

Presider

Pastor Andrew R. Geib

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Cantor

Jim Dunlop

8:15 am Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Seth Zimmann

Acolyte

Cole Altemose

Bell Ringer

Emerson Kimble

Prayer of the Day

Lay Readers

Geoffrey Thulin

Ila Verdirame

Communion Assistants

Kathy Smith, Shirley Sanders,

Jane Blocher, Julie Aha

Ushers

Glenn Blocher, Dee Wells,

Bill Hill, Morgan Smith

Greeters

Brie Smith, Shirley Sanders

Bread Baker

Shirley Sanders

Sacristy

Paula Shoemaker

Debby Luquette

AV Operator

Katy Clowney

Martin Luther Choir

10:45 am Worship Service

Assisting Minister

Debra Baker

Acolyte

Sam Dunlop

Bell Ringer

Henry Finkenbinder

Prayer of the Day

Henry Finkenbinder

Lay Readers

Andy Crouse, Robert Campbell

Communion Assistants

Anne Young, Jan Keefer

Carol Widerman, Peggy Green

Ushers

John Fisher, Gabbi Scavitto,

Bob Cook

Greeters

Becky Brown, Ann Ketterman

Bread Baker

Julie Dunlop

Sacristy

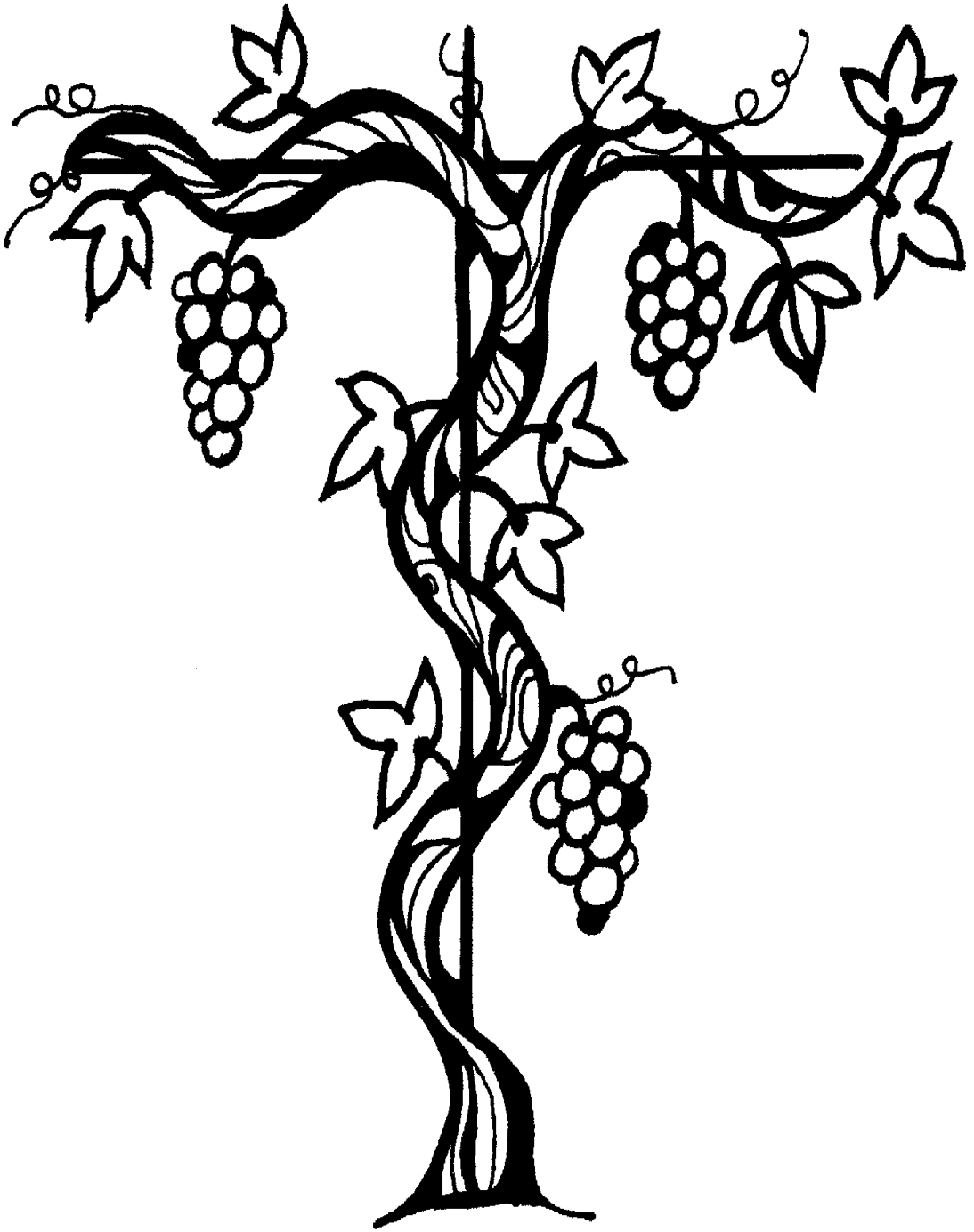
Kathy Platzer, Dan Kessel

Flower Deliverer

Pete Bender

St. James Choir

Ed Stanley, oboe





We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's house with its doors wide open.

If you are passing through, Godspeed.

If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us.

We invite guests to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to faith. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socio-economic status, marital status, ability, and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and to questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice, and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Come and listen for the Holy Spirit calling you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace, and practice compassion.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be ministers of reconciliation both in the church and in the world. Through our baptism we are reconciled to God through the saving grace of Christ Jesus and challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and love within our church and society.

As a community of faith, we proclaim this statement of welcome.