

**Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; May 3-8, '21**

**Mon Acts 8:26-39** God's Holy Spirit threw out the lifeline and pulled this Ethiopian cabinet official aboard so he could learn that God included him in His search-and-rescue-mission. He had already been brought to understand God's methodology (a Substitute would suffer and die for sinners), and he wanted to know more specifics (34). What a flood of blessings God showered on him before the sun went down that evening (36-39)!

**Tues John 15:1-8** As the parent vine supplies nutrients to its branches, in due season they sprout, blossom, and develop fruit. But did you know that the life span of each fruiting branch is limited to one season and must be pruned away so that next spring a new twig will sprout in its place? Pruning phases out the old and activates the new. God grant that our children fill in the gaps we leave behind, sprout, and bear their fruit in due season!

**Wed 1 John 3:18-24** *In deed* is the opposite of *in word*, just as the gridiron athlete outclasses an armchair athlete. Does not our conscience condemn us for not loving our neighbors in their needs? We know we fall short, and so does God—but He understands us and still loves us (18-21). BTW, *commandments* means directives for God-pleasing conduct.

**Thurs Psalm 67** First things first: "God, be merciful to us and bless us, smile upon us and our efforts to laud you at home and abroad as Savior (1-2). God, apply Your skills and muscle to rescue souls so that people of all nations will come around and praise You as the Judge whom they will face from behind the protecting shield of Jesus (3-5)." That's the Christian stance, the very stance which promotes many collateral advantages (6-7).

**Fri John 15:7** deserves more than passing attention, so we ask, "What's the importance of the qualifier: '*If My words abide in you*'? It's the crucial factor of being bonded to Jesus **when we are bonded to His Word**. Jesus repeats this in ch. 14:23-24, also in ch. 17:6,8,14,17, and John summarizes his entire Gospel enterprise in verses 30-31 of ch. 20. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God, hold onto it in their hearts, and live according to it!

**Sat Acts 24:14-27** The crux of Paul's case was his commitment to the Bible teaching of Resurrection (15). Felix, the civil magistrate, adjourned the court proceedings in order to summon Lysias, the Roman officer who had rescued Paul from the mob back in Jerusalem. During those weeks of waiting, the Holy Spirit nudged Mr. & Mrs. Felix to pay attention to Paul's theology—which set them back on their heels (24-26). Two years later Paul's case was still on the docket (27), but being under house arrest did not stop him from telling the truth about Jesus, God's gift to humanity.

May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Mason Kuehne

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branches



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## PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 67

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. <sup>7</sup> God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

## ✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

### OPENING PRAYER

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### HYMN: WS #736

**“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”**

- 1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side.  
Alleluia!**
- 2. Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie.  
You have conquered in the fight; You have brought us life and  
light. Alleluia!**
- 3. Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!**
- 4. Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!**
- 5. Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we  
live, Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, Your name  
we praise. Alleluia!**

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

**C** Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

found bullets lodged in the walls of their home. All of the banks have shut down their computers and ATMs to prevent the military from seizing the funds. And yet amid this violence, they were able to travel to more rural areas during the Easter weekend to proclaim the Good News of the Resurrection and to baptize several new believers. With the recent death of Pastor Charles in Yangon, the ministry of the NLC-Myanmar is somewhat in flux. **Pray** that the Lord will keep and protect and provide for His people in Yangon, Kalaymyo, and Chin State and that their faith will be strengthened during these uncertain times. **Praise** the Lord for allowing His word to be spread during these uncertain times and for leading hearts to repentance and saving faith in our Savior! <>

**Bangladesh** – Several months ago Pastor Monotosh and his family were evicted from the home they had been renting because of their Christian faith. They were able to rent a different house in a new village, but the owner has forbidden any type of Christian activities. No worship services have been held in the home, but individuals have come to Pastor Monotosh for prayer and pastoral advice. Because of this, they have been asked to vacate. They continue to look for a new place to live and work. Despite these difficulties, they continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and several Hindu converts were recently baptized. In addition to the struggles of the current pandemic, many members of the BLCM have been trying to rebuild following a devastating cyclone last fall. **Pray** for God’s guidance, strength, and courage to continue to boldly and faithfully proclaim His Law and Gospel for the salvation of souls in Bangladesh. <>

**Nigeria** – Immanuel Lutheran Seminary of the NCLC currently has six students enrolled. The faculty is planning some improvements to the facilities with a grant from the CLC-MDF. The NCLC Mission Board recently visited Bayelsa State to visit with several independent pastors and congregations who are seeking more theological training and fellowship. The decision was made to call a pastor to serve in this area for two years to lead and train these pastors and congregations. **Pray** for the students and faculty, that the Lord will provide all that is necessary for their training. **Ask the Lord** to bless the efforts of the NCLC Mission Board to bring the truth of God’s saving word to a new area of Nigeria. <>

**New and Ongoing Contacts** – The Lord continues to provide opportunities to proclaim the truths of His saving word in different areas of the world in places such as South Sudan, Pakistan, Yemen, Egypt, Burundi, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Columbia, Russia, and Italy. **Thank the Lord** for the privilege of teaching His word to others! And **Pray** for these individuals as they seek to grow in their understanding of God’s word to be better equipped to spread the Gospel in the places they live.

## ✠ Announcements ✠

**Treasurer's Report** – The Lord continues to provide with a surplus of **\$6,659** income over expenses for the first 3 months of the year. Tuition is up due to enrollment of 24 students. The Property Improvement Fund is down reflecting the cost of re-roofing the parsonage and much-needed septic work across all properties. <> If you are able to contribute to the **Property Improvement Fund** to help off-set the current deficit, please do so. We also could use some **Petty Cash**, if you are willing to contribute. Thank you!

✠ **May 2:** Masks-On Service 9 am  
✠ **May 2:** Communion  
✠ **May 5:** Zoom Bible Class 6:30 pm  
✠ **May 9:** Orlando Service 8 am  
✠ **May 16:** Confirmation Service

**Two Delegates** are needed to represent the congregation at this summer's CLC Annual Convention from June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are a voting member of the congregation and think you'd be able to serve in this role, please speak with either Ed Morris or Pastor. Thank you!

**Shut-in/Encouragement List** **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain and other health problems. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. **Greg Tincher** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Rudy Enriquez** is home from the hospital and awaiting the beginning of treatment for his throat cancer. **Joel Bernthal** is recovering well from his knee surgery and is back at school in Eau Claire. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain, please pray for successful treatment. **Darrin Ream** recently was in a motorcycle accident and is recovering from several injuries. We offer praise the Lord it wasn't worse, please also pray for Darrin's recovery.

**Last Week:** WH – 28 Orlando – 11 **Total Offering = \$3,450**  
General = \$3,345 | ILC Scholarship = \$50 | Property Improvement = \$200

**Cleaner (5/8):** Bernthal | **Acolyte (5/9):** Seth Bernthal

### CLC Foreign Missions Prayer List – April 2021

**Myanmar** – The military take-over of Myanmar has brought protests and violence between the military and citizens for the past couple of months. Several hundred civilians have been killed and injured. Our brothers and sisters in Christ of the NLC and the CLCM are facing danger as much of the violence has been taking place near where they live in both Yangon and Kalaymyo. Pastor Kham, his family, and the orphans they care for have been taking shelter when gunfire erupts just blocks away. They have

☑ **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

☐ Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

☑ **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.**

### INTROIT

*Ps. 145:1ff; Jn. 16:16*

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

☐ 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING – John 15:1-8** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me 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.

**EPISTLE READING – 1 John 3:18-24** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup> By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup> for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

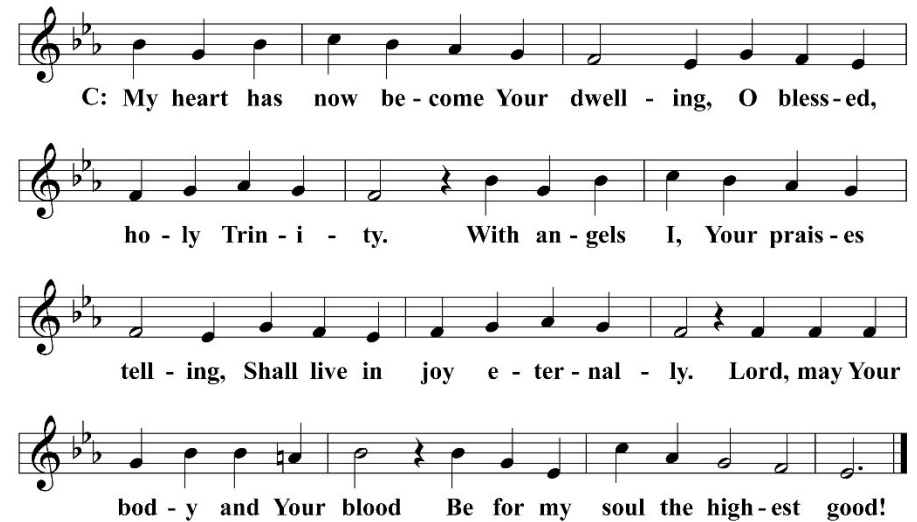
**G** ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CONFESSIO OF FAITH** *The Nicene Creed*

**G** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

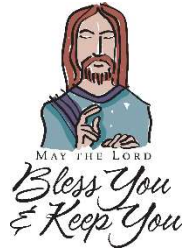


C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es  
 tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your  
 bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

**THE BENEDICTION:** *Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**G** Amen!



**HYMN: WS #793** "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest; Sing songs of love and praise.  
 With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.  
 By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;  
 Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.
2. God makes the clouds rain goodness; The deserts bloom and spring. The hills leap up in gladness; The valleys laugh and sing. God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase; He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.
3. Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,  
 The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.  
 Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,  
 And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

**Please Note:** The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time for the right purpose by the right person, lest it do more harm than good. That is one reason we ask our visitors...please speak to the pastor before you commune with us. Thank you!

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*Please remain seated.*

**P** Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting.

Depart in peace. Amen.



C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For  
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN: LSB #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

**SERMON – Acts 8:26-39** Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not 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> And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"<sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.<sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

**A Most Unlikely Evangelism**

- I. To the most unlikely places
- II. To the most unlikely people
- III. With a totally unlikely message
- IV. Producing astonishing results!

**OFFERTORY**

*WS p.16*

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

- ☞ ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

**HYMN: TLH #495:1,3,4 "From Greenland's Icy Mountains"**

1. From Greenland's icy mountains, From India's coral strand,  
Where Afric's sunny fountains Roll down their golden sand;  
From many an ancient river, From many a palmy plain,  
They call us to deliver Their land from error's chain.
3. Can we whose souls are lighted With wisdom from on high,  
Can we to men benighted The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation! Oh, Salvation! The joyful sound proclaim  
Till each remotest nation Has learned Messiah's name.
4. Waft, waft, ye winds, His story, And you, ye waters, roll,  
Till like a sea of glory It spreads from pole to pole;  
Till o'er our ransomed nature The lamb for sinners slain,  
Redeemer, King, Creator, In bliss returns to reign.

**✠ PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER ✠**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts!

**C** We lift them up to the Lord!

**P** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C** ♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!

O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose  
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -  
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -  
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

**The Order of Holy Communion**

