

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

...Hear us, O God, / **Your mercy is great.**

The petitions conclude: ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. / **Amen**

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC Jill Sousek, piano

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger
still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring
joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #821 *Shout to the Lord*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

COMMUNION WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ *may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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, leading us from death to life,
from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with
strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our
journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our
hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy
Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN #379 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

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

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #363 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* vs 1, 2, 5

APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.