

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Pastor John Stiles ~ Reader: Kris G



PRELUDE *Prayer Works*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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.

GATHERING HYMN: *'You Are My Wholeness'*

Prayer Works

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: *Acts 8:26-40*

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.) 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.

The word of the Lord. ~ **Thanks be to God.**

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.

The word of the Lord. ~ **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: *'Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty'*

ELW 533

GOSPEL READING: *John 15:1-8 ~ Glory to you O Lord.*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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.**

MESSAGE: *Pastor John Stiles*

OFFERING with SPECIAL MUSIC: *'This Day'*

Jen Hansmann

OFFERING PRAYER: Merciful father...

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: our selves, our time and our possessions: signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself for us: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION: Welcome!

Michael & Darlene Kratt ~ Jenah Newman with Branson

Judy & Ray Wegscheider ~ Jody and Dave Karas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Response: God of grace, **Hear our prayer**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Alleluia! Christ is risen! ~ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. ~ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: *'Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing'*

ELW 389 vs. 1,2,5

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

THIS WEEK AT ORLC

Website: www.orlcpc.com ~ Phone: 320-629-2985 ~ Office Email: orlcoffice@gmail.com

Sunday (28th)

New Member Sunday

8am Prayer

9am Worship

9:15am Sunday School

10am Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

Monday

Office Closed

9am Quilting

7:30pm AA

Tuesday

2pm Lakes & Pines Tax Help

Wednesday

6:30am Men's Breakfast

3pm Kids of the Kingdom

6pm JH Youth Group

7:30pm Wed. Night Worship

7:30pm SH Youth Group

Thursday

8am Sonrisers

1pm Grief Group

1pm Caregivers Support Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY!! SEMI-ANNUAL SPRING MEETING: Meeting will immediately following worship. Please stay and get an update on church programming and council member voting. A quorum is needed.

TODAY!! NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: Welcome to the ORLC Church family!

ALTAR GUILD: Meeting date change: now Sunday May 19th. The altar guild is looking for new members. Please consider joining us for a meeting after Church on the 19th to learn more about the duties of the group.

YOUTH GARAGE SALE: Its spring cleaning time and we want your donations!! Drop off days: May 7-9th from 10-6pm and May 10th from 10-3pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Altar flower sign-up is available in the Fellowship Hall on the board next to the office or talk to Becca in the office.

RADIO SPONSOR: Dave & Mary Jo Mettler

(Tune in by turning your radio dial to Anthem Country 106.5FM or WCMP 1350AM)

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG: Collection drop off: 3 white collection boxes around the Church. Inside: Sanctuary doors and in the hallway outside the kitchen. Outside: Backdoor.

GREEN TIP: April 28

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” –1 John 3:18. Put your care for creation into action this week. This week, replace your old lightbulbs with energy efficient ones. Replace store-bought cleaners (which contain harsh chemicals that can be destructive to the environment) with homemade and/or natural cleaners such as vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, or biodegradable cleaners. Search online for easy-to-make recipes for common house-cleaning solutions.

PRAYER TEAM: The Mountains

Missionaries walk boldly into some of the darkest areas of the earth. They confront spiritual and physical oppression that we can't imagine. Pray that the Light of God would shine through them, uplifting darkness and oppression as they share His love!

Our missionaries to Kazakhstan (Tim and Maria Steadyheart) have two darling little boys named Elliot and Amos. They have a nanny that takes care of the boys, but lives farther away in a mountainous area. Tim and Maria would like to find ways to reach this area, also. It is called Aksu. This lovely lady is a Christian in an area that may not accept this life. We pray that the morning Scripture devotions with the family would be blessed. That this woman would be protected and grow in the Lord. That God would open doors for Tim and Maria to share the love of Christ even unto the mountains. Isaiah 52:7, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good news...peace and Salvation unto Zion. Our God reigns!

ORLC PRAYER LIST: *Prayer is powerful & a way to support those seeking comfort and guidance. The list below are those who need your prayers._*

TO PRAY FOR:

Howard M, Kathryn J, Kirk O, Kathy J, Gail M, Jon R, Bill & Shirl W, Jeneice C, John A, Kiley (son-in-law of Pat H), Bill M (son of Ron & Donna P)

Always keep in prayer--- our military, first responders, front line workers, for all who work for peace and justice on behalf of 'the least of these' and for all those we hold in prayer in the quiet of our hearts.