

Sunday, May 2, 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

Prelude: Two settings of "Schmücke dich" (ELW #488)

Johannes Brahms
Anton Wilhelm Leupold

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Create a focal point for worship in your home in the Easter season. Add an Alleluia, maybe your Easter bells, or fresh flowers. In addition to these items, a candle and bowl of water remind us of the new life we have received through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection and our call to let our Christ light shine! Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God's love and grace, we are one in Christ, across time and space. Throughout our worship, ring your bells each time you hear, speak, or sing the word "Alleluia!"

Thanksgiving for 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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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.

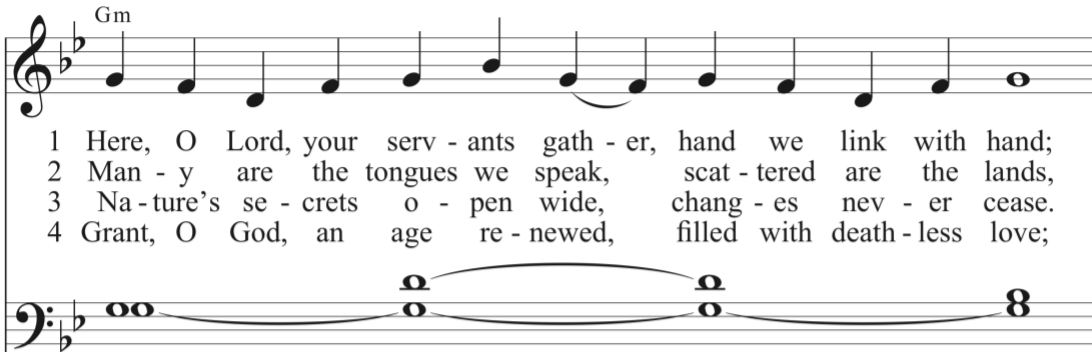
Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

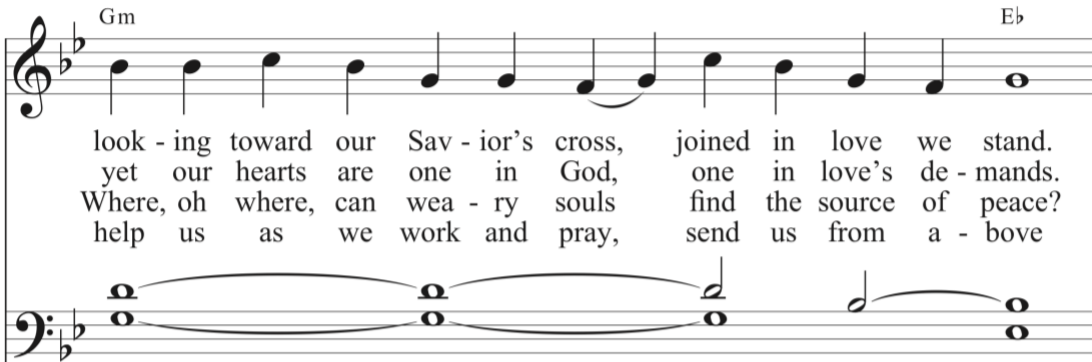
Amen.

Gm



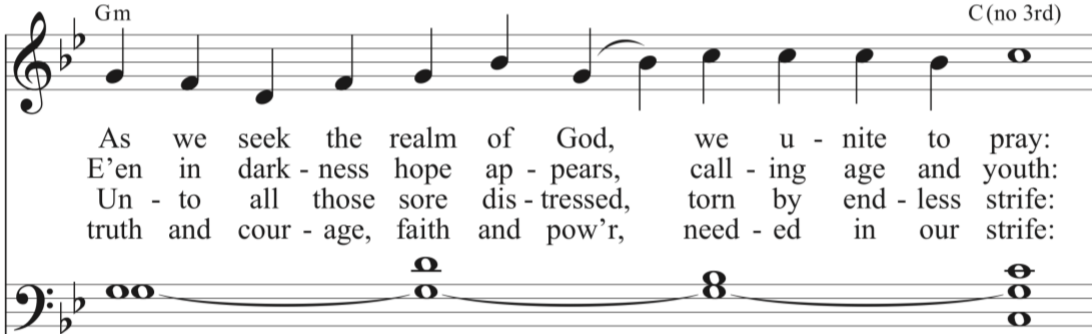
1 Here, O Lord, your serv - ants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
 2 Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,
 3 Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.
 4 Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;

Gm Eb




look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
 yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove

Gm C (no 3rd)



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and pow'r, need - ed in our strife:

Gm F Dm C (no 3rd) Dm7 C (no 3rd)



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
 Je - sus, Teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, Heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1900–1995; Eng. tr. Everett M. Stowe

Music: Isao Koizumi, 1907–1992

Words © 1958 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

Music © 1958 Isao Koizumi

Japan
 7.5.7.5.D.
 TOKYO

Greeting:

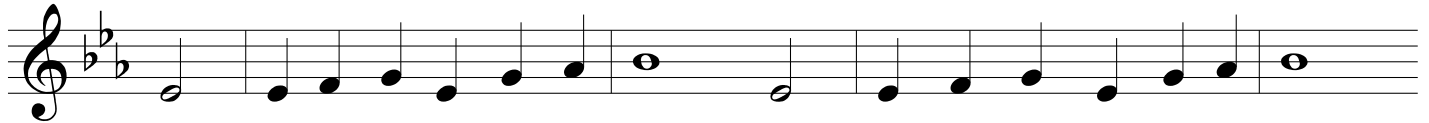
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise:

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

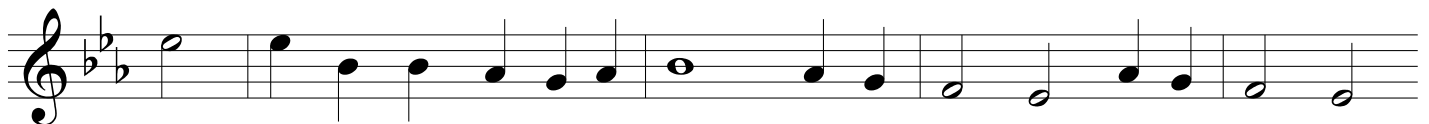
#367 vs. 1 & 4



Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that still a-bounds:
A - dor-ing prais-es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly blessed sing:



"Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an-gels, loud and clear!
"Christ has tri-umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa-ther, and our Lord,



Re - peat their song of glo-ry here: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!"
to Spir - it blest, most ho-ly God, all the glo - ry, nev-er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day:

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.

Amen.

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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.

Gospel Acclamation:



The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:	<i>Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!</i>	#377
------------------	----------------------------------	------



1	Al - le - lu - ia!	Je - sus	is	ris - en!
2	Walk - ing	the	way,	Christ in the cen - ter
3	Je - sus	the	vine,	we are the branch - es;
4	Weep - ing,	be	gone;	sor - row, be si - lent:
5	Cit - y	of	God,	Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets	re - sound - ing	in	glo - ri - ous	light!
tell - ing	the	sto - ry	to	o - pen
life	in the	Spir - it	the	fruit of the
death	put a - sun - der,	and	Eas - ter	is bright.
gold - en	Je - ru - sa - lem,	Je - sus	the	Lamb,



Splen - dor,	the	Lamb,	heav - en	for - ev - er!
break - ing	our	bread,	giv - ing	us
heav - en	to	earth,	Christ	to the
Cher - u - bim	sing:	O	grave,	be o - pen!
riv - er	of	life,	saints	and arch - an - gels,

(more music on the following page)



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Apostles' Creed:

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Brief silence

God of grace and peace, we pray for the church. Bless the greater churches throughout the world to practice the grace and peace of Christ. Help those who lose their way. Press us to remain Christ centered. We pray for the ELCA and Bishop Eaton. We pray for our synod and Bishop Macholz. We pray for our Pastors Walter-Peterson and Hoffman. Continue to energize our council to navigate our reopening that so many of us desire. Our sister congregation in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe is challenged with fear of vaccinations, be with them Lord. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. Our relief from sin has come. We pray O God, for our world, our country and our personal sphere of existence. Shout at us from your presence in our souls to guide us to love and compassion. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

We pray for families throughout the human condition. We pray for our own core families. Be with all mothers, fathers and children, We pray for the family of our church at Bethlehem, we pray today for; Bob & Cathy, Bill, Gunnar, Judy & Mark, Ed & Joan, Bob & Cheryl. We pray for the family of humankind, throughout the world, make your presence known to all lord. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

Many in our local and world communities are hurting. We pray for those affected by the pandemic. Be with those who are first line care workers. We pray today specifically for:

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- The birth of Ethan born 3/28. Ethan is the son of David and Amy and little brother to Stella

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Lynsay (friend of Jackie) who died on 4/24
- Karen (friend of Carol) who died on 4/9

- Steve who died on 4/12
- Father George who died on 4/16, especially our sisters and brothers in Christ at the Roman Catholic parishes of Assumption and Resurrection

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Dan who is hospitalized
- Madison (granddaughter of Linda) who is having surgery on 5/4
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she seeks a kidney donor
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers
 - Michele & Joe (friends of Donna & Jim)

And all those we call out aloud now or hold in our hearts. Surround them all with your healing power. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

"Let All Things Now Living" #881

arr. by Rich Towsley, Katherine Davis, lyrics; Welsh folk tune, music
BLC Folk & Dulcimer Groups (Director, Rich Towsley)

How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es

gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Your love was revealed among us in this way:

You sent into the world your only Son so that we might live through him.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent Jesus, that we might see
God's love made real.

**In this meal, teach us to love our sisters and brothers as you love us: with wide mercy,
with deep forgiveness, and with abundant grace. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 to Communion:

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

Thanks be to God!

The Communion:

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, grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion:

If you will not be communing at Bethlehem today, we encourage you to speak the words of Blessing at the end of today's service following the musical selections.

All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. We invite you to make your way to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY until 11 am this morning. All participants are expected to wear masks. When you arrive, please use the main entrance of the church and ushers will direct you to the communion table. Those who need the assistance of the lift are welcome to use the Perrin Street entrance. When you are ready to receive the bread and wine, you may remove your mask. Children and others who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the worship assistant.



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

When you have received communion, you are invited to conclude today's liturgy with your household.

Benediction:

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

* * * * *

Thank you to Pastor David Gerhardt... *for proclaiming God's Word among us! Pastor Gerhardt is a retired ELCA Pastor and member of this congregation. We are grateful for his witness among us.*

Calendar for week of May 2 – May 9

(Last updated on 4/28/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, May 2

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship followed by Holy
Communion – the sanctuary
will be open for people to
receive communion until 11 am
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, May 3

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

Tuesday, May 4

Wednesday, May 5

BLC Office Closed **
9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
9:30 am Education Planning
Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)
10:30 am Liturgy Planning for
Pentecost
([Join](#) or use ID 821 6886 0433))
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
6:30 pm BLC Officer's Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 814 2532 5342)
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, May 6

10:00 am CMT Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 825 5536 5823)
6:30 pm CMT/Council Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 894 8717 7047)

Friday, May 7

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, May 8

9:15 am Property Committee
Meeting

Sunday, May 9

Baptism at 8:30 am

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
10:00 am In-person Worship
([Reservation required](#))
7:30 pm LYO

****Beth Schoenfeld will be out of the office on Wednesday, May 5. Pastor Amy remains available and can be reached by phone when she is not in the office.**

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***Zoom Meetings at BLC:** The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

***Worshipping In-Person:** To accommodate our sanctuary capacity limits, we are currently requiring reservations for worship. You may [reserve space here](#) (the link is also available on BLC's [Share in Worship page](#)). If you need assistance making a reservation or don't have internet access, please contact the church office.

Connected for Life

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus' impending death and the promise of his continued presence.

"Apart from me you can do nothing" may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He's been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.

Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.
From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002

Reprinted by permission under CCLI Annual License #11159563

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.