

I am
the vine,
you are the
branches

JOHN 15:5

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: 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.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter: *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.*

★ **CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY** ★

TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- *Share God's love with our community*
 - *Serve God's children*
 - *Bring healing and wholeness to those in need*
 - *Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study*
-
-

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus. Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

We will worship the Almighty and sing praises. We will proclaim good news to others.

Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us. We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.

Remember that you have been baptized. God claims you and has high expectations of you.

Christ is the vine; we are the branches. We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God has raised us to new life.

Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us repent of our sin and claim the promise of God.

God of love, in our failure to keep your commandments we have clung to the old life of sin within us. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Free us from the power of sin, guide us by your Spirit, and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

Interpret your word to us, O God, so we can understand and act. Feed us with food that satisfies and cleanse us from all that pollutes and destroys. May we be productive branches of the true vine, Jesus Christ, subject to your love and care. Confront and shape us according to your perfect love. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Phillip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

THE SECOND LESSON

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. 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.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Abiding"

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We give you thanks that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We boldly proclaim: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for river and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by **Rev. Sandy L. Morris** in loving memory of my daughter, Elisabeth Louise Shultz (1984-2012).

The Worship Aids are given by **Denise Pfeiffer** in honor of Pastor Chris and his family.

Ministering Today

Pastor/Celebrant	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector/Assistant	Diane Rice
Money Counters	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller, Denise Pfeiffer
Altar Guild	Karen Olley, Nancy Enders, Hedwig Hunsicker
Koinonia	Paula Dennes
Building Trustee	Hank Fox
Ministries	Card Evangelism Committee (Nancy Enders) Called to Care Betty Tyndall Visitation Sue Bowman

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Monday	7:00 PM – Choir/8:15 PM Bells
Saturday	8:00 PM – Alanon/AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist 9:00 AM – Sunday School 10:00 AM – Koinonia 10:30 AM – Worship 12:15 PM – Lunch Bunch

Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)
Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)
Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)
Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)
Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)
Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)
Don Pfeiffer (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

THE MAY PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

DEVOTIONALS: The April-June edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

TRINITY LUNCH BUNCH: The Parish Life Committee is revitalizing the lunch gatherings for church members and friends. We are tentatively planning the first one at Fiorentino's on May 5 following the 10:30 service. Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office. **The deadline to sign-up is TODAY!!!** Contact Denise Pfeifer for more information.

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: It is not too late to buy S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons to support the Trinity Preschool. The cost is \$8 per coupon. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. **Make checks payable to Trinity Preschool and put in the white box outside the church office.**



Trinity UCC

2340 State St., East Petersburg, PA 17520
www.trinityeastpete.org 717-569-1632

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Concert – 3:00 PM

Freewill Offering Benefits Ting Ministries



Music For Everyone Community Chorus And Ukelele Uprising

2024 CONCERT SPONSORS: Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST: The men will be meeting in May 11 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. This is open to all men of the church!

PRAYER SHAWL: The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, May 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: **May 5, 12, & 19.** Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are **June 2.** The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

The warmer days of the Summer Camp season are right around the corner! Camp registration is open and ready for you to start planning your summer around weeks at **Kirchenwald & Nawakwa!** There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. **There is the 2nd annual Hartman Center Homecoming Camp (July 28-August 3). Look for more information in the Parish Post or on the table across from the church office. Contact Anne Rankin for more information!**

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with “Camp Scholarship”.

UPCOMING EVENTS [More Information - https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/)

[Kirchenwald Work Day](#) at Kirchenwald - May 4, 2024

[Lutheran Camping Night](#) at Harrisburg Senators at FNB Field - May 17, 2024

[Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic](#) at Kirchenwald - May 19, 2024



May 23, 1:30 PM

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office!!!



VBS 2024

Trinity UCC, 2340 State St., East Petersburg

www.trinityeastpete.org

717-569-1632

July 15 - 18 6:30-8:30 PM

July 19 6:30 PM Closing Program

Caretaker And Me Class - Under Five With Caretaker

Children's Classes - Five Through Finished Sixth Grade

Youth Volunteers - Contact Mrs. Slechta

Through stories, crafts, games, and music, *"Reach For The Stars"* reminds us that things that seem impossible to us, are possible with God.

Rev. Esbenshade will facilitate the teen/adult class. Studying the book, *"Tradition In Crisis"* by Peter Schmiechen, the class will examine how "Now is the time to reclaim the church based on the grace and community of Christ."

Offerings and Projects To Be Donated To Habitat For Humanity

Register through the VBS/Rally Day Page at www.trinityeastpete.org



Look for the yellow VBS Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets on the table outside office.

Books for the adult class are available in the church office!!

Save the Dates: Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars.

Lancaster Stormers Game (formerly Barnstormers)

May 31, 2024

Stormers vs. Charleston Dirty Birds



The cost is \$35 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity). Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free. You can sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. We will

need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up!



Join us at the Caddy Shack in Manheim for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and mini-golf will follow! **The golf game will be paid by the church, but lunch is on your own!** Sign-up sheet is on the table in hallway. For more information, please call Cherie Cataldi at (717) 799-2420.

Friendship Fest----July 14, 2024 – 4-7 PM

Food Trucks, Craft Vendors, Magician, Games, Fun Activities,
Auscultation Brass Concert (5-6 PM)

Proceeds from the Friendship Fest will support the Trinity Preschool!

Watch for more details in the bulletins and future Parish Posts!



Fellowship, food & fun

CHURCH

Picnic

**19 Main St.
Landisville
(park in rear of
fire station)**

A wicker picnic basket with a red and white checkered cloth, containing bread and watermelon slices.

AUGUST 25, 3:00-7:00 PM

(Watch for more information in the coming months!!)



Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up

All 4 Screenings for \$149

Carotid Artery Disease:

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA):

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation :

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

We will be in your neighborhood soon on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at East Petersburg - Trinity United Church of Christ

Get your special Community Circle pricing!

Three ways to register and receive the special discount:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5191

Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://llsa.social/hc)

Text: the word [circle](https://llsa.social/hc) to 216-279-1607



**Getting Screened is Simple!
Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.**



¹ <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/peripheral-artery-disease/about-peripheral-artery-disease-pad>

No single screening can detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

² <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation>

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.



SHARING OUR SUCCESS

The Knight and Day Diner

The Park City Diner

sosparkcitydiner@gmail.com



THE PARK CITY DINER

884 Plaza Blvd.

Lancaster, PA 17601

717-435-8512

parkcitydiner.us



THE KNIGHT AND DAY DINER

3140 Lititz Pike

Lititz, PA. 17543

717-490-6198

knoddiner.com

Every time you eat at our diners you will be making a donation to

***TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-**

East Petersburg*

VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW

(Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021

TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS

Before you pay your bill, please mention Trinity United Church of Christ and 10% of your bill will be donated to Trinity.



2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, PA 17602

717-299-1113

info@parishresourcecenter.org

www.parishresourcecenter.org



Adapting for More Fruitful Ministry

MAY 9, 7:00-8:30PM
DON HACKETT



GERANIUM ORDER FORM

Person(s) ordering Geranium Plants _____

Please order: _____ Red Geranium(s) @ \$6.00 each – 6" pot **Total amount due \$** _____

Designation as you would like it to appear in the bulletin:

Given by _____

In honor of _____

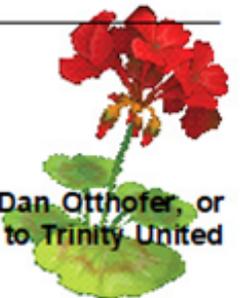
In memory of _____

Other _____

Give plant to a shut-in member Yes No

_____ or plant geranium at church

The last date to order is Sunday, April 28, 2024. Give order forms and payment to Dan Otthofer, or place in offering or email the church office. If paying by check, please make it payable to Trinity United Church of Christ. Thank you!



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.) 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, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Psalms 22:25-31**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. 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.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] "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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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