

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introduction for the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God so that, as nourished branches, we may abide in him who is the Vine.

(We pause for meditation and self-examination)

Almighty and all-merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.