

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021**

**“Pruning for Growth”**  
**John 15:1-8**

Is it possible to ‘have everything’ and still feel empty? How is it possible that ‘taking away’ produces more? Jesus teaches His disciples the source, nature, and purpose of a fruitful life. Jesus uses a parable to help them understand the importance of their relationship with God and one another.

- I. The Christian faith is not one of the ingredients that results in a good life. Our relationship with God in Jesus Christ is the source of all life for the believer.

***“I am the vine; you are the branches ... apart from me you can do nothing.”*** (John 15:5)

Genesis 1:1 John 1:3 Acts 17:28 Galatians 2:20

- II. The fruits of a good life do not primarily consist of tangible accomplishments or the acquisition of goods. The fruits of a living faith inform every aspect of life.

***“... every branch He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.”*** (John 15:3)

Romans 5:1-5 1 Peter 1:3-9 Hebrews 12:11 Galatians 5:22-23 Philippians 1:9-11

- III. The enduring purpose of our life is to give glory to God as we live and love one another.

***“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you ... by this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”*** (John 15:7-8)

- Hearing the Word is critical for survival. Romans 10:17
- Testing the “spirits” is necessary in a chaotic world. 1 John 4:1-2
- Word and Sacrament ministry offer guidance to the lost. Acts 8:34-38
- Faith active in love gives God the glory! Matthew 5:16 1 John 4:10-11

## FAITH FAMILY AT PRAYER

*A Resource for Home Devotions*

May 2 - 8

### Readings from Holy Scripture

*The following lessons may be read in the morning and evening, or in any way that works best for your schedule.*

Sunday	Leviticus 20:1-27	Luke 11:37-54
Monday	Leviticus 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
Tuesday	Leviticus 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
Wednesday	Leviticus 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
Thursday	Leviticus 24:1-23	Luke 12:54-13:17
Friday	Leviticus 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
Saturday	Leviticus 26:21-44	Luke 14:1-24

### SMALL CATECHISM

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**As the head of the family should teach it  
in a simple way to his household**

#### *The Third Petition*

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

*What does this mean?* The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is God's will done?* God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

**John 6:40** For this is the *will* of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

## DAILY PRAYER

### INVOCATION

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

### KYRIE

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

### PRAYERS FOR OTHERS and OURSELVES

*Sunday:* The joy of the resurrection, for godly worship and preaching of God's Word.

*Monday:* Faith to live in Holy Baptism; vocation, daily work, the unemployed, our neighbors, government, peace.

*Tuesday:* from temptation; the addicted and despairing; the oppressed; those struggling with sins.

*Wednesday:* Marriage, family, single parents, schools, universities, seminaries.

*Thursday:* Church, pastors, deaconesses, missionaries, faithful use of the Sacraments.

*Friday:* Preaching of the cross of our Lord in our community and the world.

*Saturday:* Faithfulness; the dying; those fallen away; open hearts for worship.

### LORD'S PRAYER

### CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, grant that we who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection may be raised to new life by the power of Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our only Lord and Savior. Amen.

For Next Sunday:

**Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8;**

**John 15:9-17**