



About the Cover

Without someone to assist him, the Ethiopian eunuch could not clearly envision the figure God's Word painted in Isaiah. But the Holy Spirit used Philip to lead him to Jesus, in whom the full picture of the Scriptures comes together. Christ's generous love and sacrifice is for the sake of the whole world as He delivers forgiveness of sins through Word and Sacrament.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Epistle: 1 John 4:1–11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are

from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

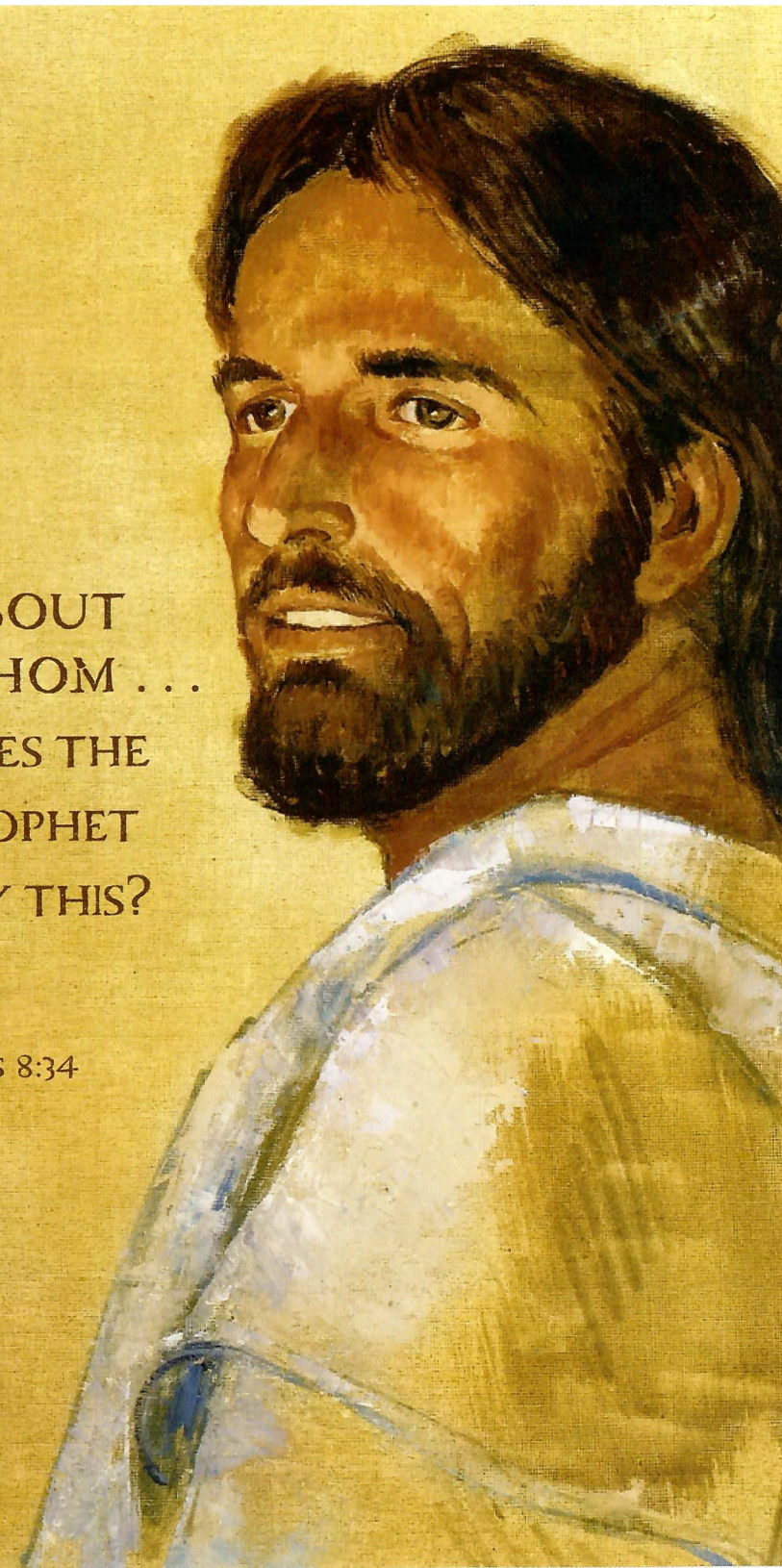
⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Holy Gospel: John 15:1–8

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

ABOUT
WHOM . . .
DOES THE
PROPHET
SAY THIS?

ACTS 8:34



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Rev. Terry L. De Giovanni Pastor

Welcome to Our Visitors

We pray all will be spiritually enriched by your visit to this "House of God." Here Christ breaks the silence that surrounds mortal man in his sin and death. Here in Christ Jesus, we hear the voice of the Eternal One, and hear the voice of the Father, and that He loves us, that He forgives us and that in the resurrection of Christ, He has made us His Children and has given us victory over death itself.

In our Worship, this Morning, we celebrate the Holy Communion. As Lutherans, we believe and teach that in the Sacrament we receive Christ's true body and blood, thus it is our duty to examine ourselves to our worthiness before reception of the Lord's Supper, (see pages 329-330 of the hymnal, Christian Questions and Their Answers). We ask that if you are not a member of our Congregation or a member of a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregation, that you speak to Pastor or an Elder before the Service.

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Liturgy – Divine Service IV Pages 203-212

Ringing of the Bells, Welcome, and Announcements

Opening Hymn LSB#465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound

Invocation Confession – Absolution Page 203

The Introit:

P: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again, a little while, and you will see me.

C: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

P: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

C: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

C: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again, a little while, and you will see me.

The Kyrie Page 204

The Gloria in Excelsis Page 204

The Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 205

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: (spoken by the Pastor)

The Epistle 1John 4:1-11 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Nicene Creed Page 206

The Hymn of the Day LSB#526 You Are the Way, through You Alone

The Sermon Are You Connected? John 15:1-8

The Receiving of the Offerings

The Prayer of the Church

Response: P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our Prayer.

The Service of Holy Communion Pages 208ff

The Distribution: Continuous Line

If you desire the Common Cup indicate to Pastor, when you receive the Host.

The Distribution Hymns LSB#633 At the Lamb's High Feast, We Sing
#624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

The Nunc Dimittis Page 211

The Post Communion Collect Page 212

The Benedicamus and Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn LSB#585 Lord Jesus Christ with Us Abide

Saturday Evening Worship: 5:30 PM.
Holy Communion First and Third Saturdays
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 AM
Holy Communion: Second and Fourth Sundays