

# Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension of Our Lord

May 16, 2021

10 am

Prelude

Patty Hutton

Welcome

## Call to Worship (*responsively*)

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to thrive and lead lives that give life to others.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

Come, all you who follow Jesus, and you who struggle to trust him.

Let us seek the grace to trust him more deeply and follow him more faithfully,  
so that our lives might bear fruit as we abide in him.

- adapted from a Call to Worship by Joanna Harader (2011) and posted on Spacious Faith. [www.spaciousfaith.com](http://www.spaciousfaith.com)

Opening Hymn

*Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

UMH #246

(vv. 1, 3-4)

Louisa M. R. Stead | William J. Kirkpatrick | © Words & Music: Public Domain

## Verse 1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
And to take him at his word  
Just to rest upon his promise  
Just to know "thus saith the Lord"

## Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus  
O for grace to trust him more

## Verse 3

Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just from sin and self to cease  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest and joy and peace **(Refrain)**

## Verse 4

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee

Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend  
And I know that thou art with me  
Wilt be with me to the end **(Refrain)**

### Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the source of all goodness and the giver of abundant life. With thanksgiving we celebrate the growth and hope we have found in You. Nourish us today through Your life-giving Spirit, and teach us to abide continually in You, so that we might live in Your love. Amen.

### A Message for Young Disciples

#### Anthem

#### *You Are My All in All*

Chancel Singers

Words & Music by Dennis Jernigan; arranged by David Phelps  
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## Proclamation and Response

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### Gospel Reading

#### **John 15:1-8 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

#### Message

*Grounded Faith: Branches*

Pastor Jen Eschliman

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

## **Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

### **Offertory**

### **Offertory Prayer**

## **Closing Song**

### *Thrive*

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### **Verse 1**

Here in this worn and weary land where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water, we never will run dry

### **Pre-Chorus**

So living water flowing through, God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with one desire

### **Chorus**

Just to know You and to make You known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun, make darkness run and hide  
We know we were made for so much more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

### **Verse 2**

Into Your Word we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out  
To show them who You are

### **Pre-Chorus & Chorus**

### **Bridge**

Joy unspeakable  
Faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable  
Anything is possible **(REPEAT)**

**Chorus**

**Ending**

We were made to thrive

## **Sending Forth**

**Announcements**

**Graduation Celebration**

**VBS Registration open**

**RUMNS Registration for Fall open**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Patty Hutton