

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd, 2021

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Prelude

Opening Hymn #349 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him, and rejoice.

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Christ our Passover

1 Corinthians 5:7–8; Romans 6:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:20–22

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia!

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia!

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a human came death,
by a human has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: **O come, let us worship.**

Children's Talk

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Then 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so

are we in this world. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #635 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (vs. 1, 2)*

1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1-8).

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Gradual Hymn #635 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (vs. 3)*

3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Susan Oliver

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, “Hear us, Lord of glory!”

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the Lord may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That God will provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That by God’s power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That God may reveal the light of Her presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That God may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon Her people, that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may name their remembered dead.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence for reflection.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;

**in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone;**

**and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #662 *The Trees of the Field*

1 You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

2 And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands.
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
while you go out with joy.

Postlude

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

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