

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 2, 2021**

**WELCOME  
PRELUDE  
THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,  
now and forever. **Amen**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your

joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING:** Acts 8:26-40

**PSALM:** Psalm 22:25-31 (*Spoken Responsively*)

25 From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
26 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**  
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
28 **For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
who rules over the nations.**  
29 Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.  
30 **Their descendants shall serve the Lord,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
31 They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

**SECOND READING:** I John 4:7-21

**GOSPEL READING:** John 15:1-8

## **SERMON**

**Silence for Reflection**

**Music Meditation**

**Apostles' Creed**

*The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit (especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before you). With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **OFFERING**

In response to all that God has done and continues to do for us in Christ Jesus, we now come to that part of our worship when we give . . . not reluctantly, but cheerfully and in thanksgiving. While many of us have been accustomed to giving in the offering plate, because of the pandemic, there are other ways: through the mail or with Vanco online. However you choose to give, please know that your gifts make a difference. Your support of our mutual ministry enables us to reach out with the gospel in word and deed in our community and to the world.

## **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.  
**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 and ever.**  
**Amen**

## **COMMUNION**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

May Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**