

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

Welcome to St. Christopher's! If you are joining us online, please remember to confirm that you are muted. If you are joining us on the lawn, please wear your mask and keep your distance from those outside your pod/household. While we have some music this morning, we are currently forgoing congregational singing. Please enjoy the music but do not sing or chant.

Prelude

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn #296 "We know that Christ is raised and dies no more" *Monk's Gate*
Verses 1 and 2 only



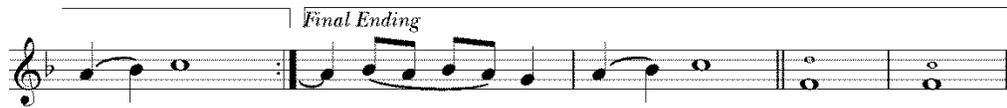
We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold;
Re-born we share with him an Eas - ter life
The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God.
as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. Al - le -
Bap-tized we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Hymn #296 from Hymnal 1982, used with permission of Church Publishing

Easter Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A Reading from Acts.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

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 Savior 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 judgment, 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.

Reader Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #379 "God is love, let heaven adore him" *Abbots Leigh*

Verse 2 only

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Hymn #379 from Hymnal 1982, used with permission of Church Publishing

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon The Rev. Eric Biddy

Nicene Creed *Said by all.*

***We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.***

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Presider Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying "Hear our prayer."

Leader Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of other and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, including the special needs and concerns of this congregation, including **Sylvia, Nancy, Jeremy, Nick and Sherry, Kevin, David, Liam, M'Siah, Dan** and **Chris, Richard** (Martin), **Eunice** (Lewis), **Laura** (Rabb, Carla Bukalski's sister-in-law), **Bob** (Wyatt), **Devin, Steven** (Titiner, friend of Katie Kearns), **Dennis, Linda & Jayden** (Bushkofsky), **Theresa** (Kearns, Katie's sister), **Amber** (Curry, granddaughter of Bob Jones), **Kathie** (Gillies), **Paris** (Coffey), **Louise** (Dimiceli, friend of Mary Kay Tobin), **Destini** and **Perryman Families**; and for others we now name . . . ; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guard the joyous and make us thankful for your many blessings, including the birthdays this week of **Graham** Troyer-Joy (5/2), **Sean** Trillik (5/5), **David** Dempsey (5/8), **John** Hillman (5/8); the anniversary of **Adam & Mary** Gearing (5/4); we remember **Barbara** Kohnhorst (5/4) and **Kim** Cannon (5/5); and other blessings we now name . . . Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, including those we now name . . . that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Presider O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

All greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *recited by all*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Christopher and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

***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,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Presider breaks the bread and all hold a moment of silence. Then is said

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

Presider

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

An Act of Spiritual Communion, for those at home

During the distribution of Communion, those at home may pray the following

God of infinite mercy,

We thank you for Jesus our Savior, our true Mother

Who feeds us and gives us eternal life.

Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine,

We thank you that we have received the sacrament of Christ's presence,

The forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion.

Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Savior,

Who with you and the Holy Spirit,

Lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Silence, and then the People join in this prayer:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude



Serving Today

Readings	1 st Reading: Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:24-30 2 nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21 Gospel: John 15:1-8
8AM Lectors	1st Reading: Gretchen Straw Psalm: Marilyn Huebel 2nd Reading: Gretchen Straw
Prayers of the People	Marilyn Huebel
Voice of the People	Bob Jones
10:30 AM Lectors	1 st Reading: Paul Clark 2 nd Reading: David Moyer
Prayers of the People	Laura Kliewer
Voice of the People	Kelly Clissold
Altar Guild	Linda Bolte

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP

[National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Link](#)

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