

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prelude

Welcome

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Holy God, you raised our Lord Jesus from the bonds of death. We
praise you, trusting that you raise us to new life with him day by day.
Turn us to you again, that we may confess our need of your grace and
Jesus as our Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God and to one another. *Silence for reflection*

Gracious God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in
thought, word, and deed. We ask you to forgive us and to free us
from all that holds our lives captive, that we may truly love you and
walk in newness of life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen for you!

Christ is risen for me! Alleluia!

In strength of Jesus' death and resurrection, I assure you: God's
forgiveness is yours. Nothing can separate you from the love of God
which is yours in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 530 "Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"



1 Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
2 Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands;
3 Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease;
4 Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death-less love;



look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's de - mands.
where, O where, can wea - ry souls find the source of peace?
help us as we work and pray; send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
E'en in dark-ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
truth and cour - age, faith and power need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

**Optional finger cymbals*

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.**

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see

the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ^l put to shame;
deliver me ^l in your righteousness.

Incline your ^l ear to me;

make haste to de- ^l liver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ^l and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead ^l me and guide me.

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly ^l set for me,
for you are my tow- ^l er of strength.**

Into your hands I com- ^l mend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O Lord, ^l God of truth.

My times are ^l in your hand;

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who ^l persecute me.**

Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;

save me in your ^l steadfast love."

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from First Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater

works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY -ELW 816 “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

NICENE CREED (*Led by Deacon*)

We confess our faith using the Nicene Creed on page 104 in the hymnal.

**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 INTERCESSION *(Deacon)*

I invite you to face one another across the center aisle for the prayers. I will read the introduction and conclusion, and you are invited to read an individual intercession as you are moved.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially Bobby, Clifford, Dan, Don, George, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for the pastoral call committee as they continue their work of discernment. Guide them by your Spirit, and stir up among them the gifts of wisdom, patience and openness. Center this congregation in you, that we may walk together in faith while the search for a new pastor continues. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE *(Deacon)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING AND CHOIR ANTHEM *Deacon prepares the Table*

OFFERING PRAYER *Read by the Deacon*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

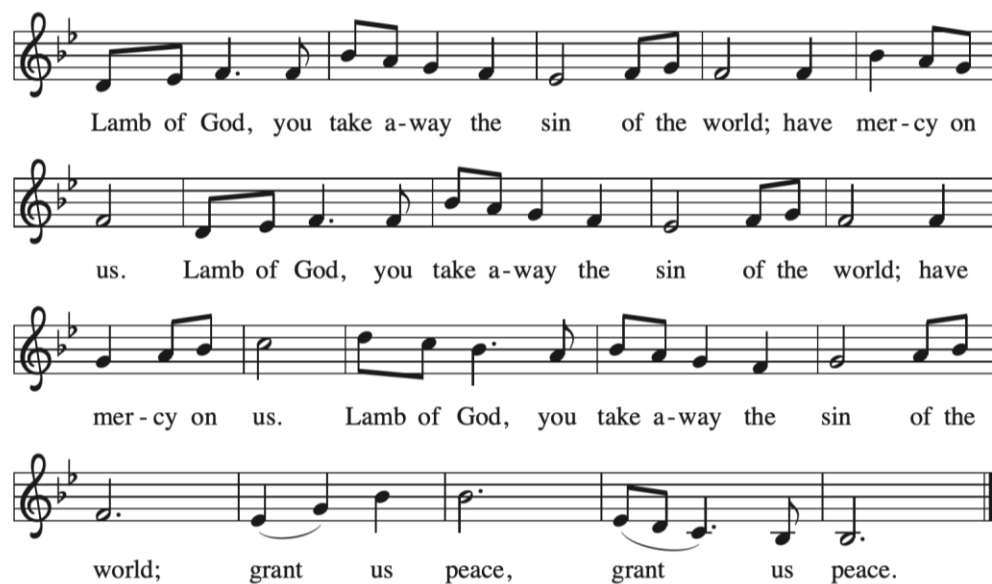
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

THE COMMUNION



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on each staff.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 477 "I Received the Living God"

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

The Deacon gathers and re-veils the communion elements on the Table.

TABLE BLESSING (*Presider*)

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER (*Deacon*)

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION (*Presider*)

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of our Savior Jesus Christ; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN ELW 376 "Thine Is the Glory"



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

DISMISSAL (*Deacon*)

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Walk with God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE