

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 2, 2021

PRELUDE

Voluntary on *Christ ist erstanden* | Pietro Cattaneo, b. 1998

WELCOME

HYMN 296, verse 1, 2

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;
And our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.*

HYMN 199 verses 2 and 3

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

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:

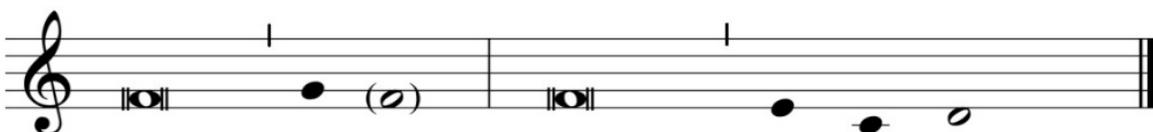
"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

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.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30



24 My praise is of him in the great as-/sembly; *

- I will perform my vows in the presence of / those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall / praise him: *
"May your heart / live forever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the / Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall / bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the / Lord; *
he rules o- / ver the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in / worship; *
all who go down to the dust / fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall / serve him; *
they shall be known as the / Lord's forever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet un- /born *
the saving deeds that / he has done.

The Gloria Patri sung by the virtual choir
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

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 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.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 457

Thou art the Way, to thee alone from sin and death we flee;
and all who would the Father seek, must seek him, Lord, by thee.

Thou art the Truth: thy word alone true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind and purify the heart.

Thou art the Life, the rending tomb proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel according to John

All: **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."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Melesa McEwan Skoglund

NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he
became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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 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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please respond to each bidding with "hear our prayer."

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

HYMN 296, verses 3,4

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Bicinium on *Blaenwern* | Pietro Cattaneo

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

The Rev. Melesa McEwan Skoglund, Presider

Laura Lewandowski, Lector

Dennis Lloyd, Lector

John Mullen, Intercessor

THE VIRTUAL CHOIR

The choir heard in the liturgy includes singers from St. Paul's Episcopal Watertown, St. Andrew's, and Judy Burnham; Frisco, Colorado. The practice and performance tracks were prepared by Ken Stancer, music director and organist at St. Andrew's. The sound mixing engineer is Caroline Senn, music director and organist at St. Paul's.

PERMISSIONS

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