



## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two – May 2, 2021**

#### **Opening Hymn**

*#705 As those of old, vs. 1 & 3*

**1** As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;  
so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

**3** With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to thee  
to serve thy cause and share thy love with all humanity.  
O thou who gavest us thyself in Jesus Christ thy Son,  
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

#### **Opening Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

#### **The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

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

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Reading**

**Acts 8:26-40**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.**

**Psalm 22:24-30—*Read responsively by whole verse.***

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*  
“May your heart live for ever!”**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD’S for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**The Second Reading**

**1 John 4:7-21**

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Hymn**

### **The Gospel**

**John 15:1-8**

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

#### **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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Philip LaBelle*

### **The 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 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.  
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

### Form IV

At the end of each petition, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.  
*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*            **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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:

**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.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

**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.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Communion Hymn**

## The Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Announcements

**Men's Groups Restarting with Early Morning and Daytime Options**--St. Mark's Men's Groups are restarting this week on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with two options: 1) 7 a.m. Zoom; and 2) 1:30 p.m. in-person meeting at the church. Groups meet for one-hour and focus on sharing and Bible discussion. This spring we'll be discussing Growing in Love using the Love Chapter (1 Corinthians 13) as the text. Questions: Contact Garth Johnson (508-797-8155; gjohnson@cutlerdb.com).

**April Open Plate Partner: Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ).** For the second quarter of 2021, the outreach team is shifting our focus to social justice with our April Open Plate partner, **Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ)**, a growing nonprofit that provides a powerful option within the justice system—for people, communities, and law enforcement alike.

**Save the date for VBS 2021—August 16-20.** Mark your calendars to participate in this year's Vacation Bible School with the theme of *Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Might Power!* Stay tuned for details coming soon.

**The Bargain Box will remain closed during the 2021 spring season out of concern for the health of our customers and volunteers.** We will accept consignments for any season (please list fall items on a separate sheet from spring items) with the understanding that it might be some time before we are able to sell the clothes and provide payment. Donations for any season are always gratefully accepted. Please email [stmarksbargainbox@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksbargainbox@gmail.com) to make an appointment to drop off clothes. We hope to open for the fall. Thank you!

**St. Mark's has launched a new website to support our bid for Southborough CPA grant funding** for our clock tower restoration project. Visit [stmarkstower.org](http://stmarkstower.org) for important information about the project and please feel free to forward to anyone you think might be interested. **Southborough residents, please mark your calendars for the Town Meeting on May 22 and be there to cast your YES vote!**

## **Closing Hymn**

*#379 God is Love*

**1** God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice:  
Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above,  
God who breathes through all creation: God is Love, eternal Love.

**2** God is Love: and love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace:  
with unfailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,  
Then we find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.

**3** God is Love: and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,  
God's eternal loving kindness guides us through our earthly strife.  
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever o'er the universe must reign.

## **Easter Blessing**

### **Dismissal**

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

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