

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SEASON OF EASTER 2021

GATHERING

We enter in a spirit of contemplation, as the beloved people of God, and the prelude helps to prepare us for worship. Words said by the pastor/leader are in plain type; words said by the congregation are in bold.

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

All may cross their forehead as a reminder of our baptism, as we give 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.

GATHERING HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
you have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

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

Let us pray:

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.

WORD

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26-40*

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with

this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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 22:25-31

- ²⁵From 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!
- ²⁷All 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 o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING *1 John 4:7-21*

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Creator has sent God's Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERVICE MUSIC

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Gospel Acclamation

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL *John 15:1-8*

The Holy Gospel, according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

After hearing the sermon, we proclaim the word of God in song.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, let us unite in Christ to pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with the words “Make us one in you.”

A brief silence.

God of triune mystery, as you have formed your church to be one fruitful vine, strengthen our churches and our ecumenical connections with Christians across the street and around the globe.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:

Make us one in you.

As you blessed Philip the evangelist, nurture our missionaries and theologians, our seminaries, our Sunday schools, and all adult discussions of the faith.

Hear our prayer, O enlightening God:

Make us one in you.

As you brought the Ethiopian eunuch to baptism, lead all Christian communities to welcome people of each sexual identity, every gender identity, every skin color, and all national backgrounds.

Hear our prayer, O embracing God:

Make us one in you.

As you created an earth with countless forms of plant and animal life, train us to honor and maintain the bountiful earth that you intend for us and future generations.

Hear our prayer, O creating God:

Make us one in you.

As you call humankind to live in love with one another, bring peace to nations, to neighborhoods, and to homes. Protect the oppressed and the vulnerable in every land, show us the path to nonviolence in all things.

Hear our prayer, O reconciling God:

Make us one in you.

As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for

all those in need of healing, especially Clare, Nathaniel, Karen, Ingrid, Mason, Lauren, Sean, Sarah, Juli, Sarah, Adeline, Donovan, Susan, and all those we hold in our hearts.

Hear our prayer, O healing God:

Make us one in you.

We remember those who have died, especially Alyson and Tom, and those we name in our hearts. As you have promised to bring your people into your strong and tender embrace, preserve us until we enter with all the saints into your everlasting mercy.

Hear our prayer, O eternal God:

Make us one in you.

Into your hands, O living God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gifts of Christ's peace.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all of God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

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.

THE 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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 true 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *(written by Rev. Katie Hines-Shah)*

Blessed are you,
O God of the Universe
You protect and preserve us
And make the ordinary holy
Through the power of your love.

Praise to you for all of creation!
For making humankind from the very dust of the earth

and giving us all we need for sustenance.
Praise to you for preserving Noah and his family
through their 40 days of sheltering in place
and giving them the sign of the rainbow
when it was safe to venture out again.
Praise to you for bringing the Hebrew people
safely through the sea and beyond the reach of oppression.
In the wilderness you provided them with manna and water from the rock
as they journeyed into a new reality.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one:
Who turned water into wine.
Who fed thousands with a few loaves and fish.
Who healed, taught, and blessed,
all those who came close to him
and those separated by distance.
Who loved the world so much that he became one of us,
sharing our common life,
suffering and dying,
And gloriously rising,
breaking the bonds of sin, death and the devil
so that nothing could ever separate us from you.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

With this bread and this cup
We remember Jesus's presence among us
As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life,
Pour out your Holy Spirit,
Make this bread and wine before us
The body and blood of your Son.
Enter into our locked rooms
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Strengthen and preserve us for the trials we endure now.
Send us your Holy Spirit
to comfort, empower, challenge, and encourage us
to be a sign of resurrection to the world.

Come Holy Spirit!

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with those gathered on screens across time and space,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come;
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of
God.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:
Wellspring of joy,
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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Creator, ✝ 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!

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