

5th Sunday of Easter
May 17-18, 2025
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASSING OF PEACE

(U)

CALL TO WORSHIP "Surely The Presence"

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel His mighty power and His grace_.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings.
I see glory on each face.
Surely the pre - sence of the Lord is in this place.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

- C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**
- P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.**
- C Amen.**

**GATHERING: O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO VS 1&4
(CUT 2-3)**

- 1 O Love that will not let me go_,
I rest my weary soul in thee_;
I give thee back the life I owe_,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head_,
I dare not ask to fly from thee_;
I lay in dust life's glory dead_,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
- C And also with you.**

KYRIE

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

C O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(D)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Acts 11:1-18

The lesson begins:

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(U)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open_ now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us;

speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(D)

SERMON

(U)

SERMON RESPONSE "Build Our Lives"

**We will build our lives upon God's love.
It is a firm foundation
and we will put our trust in Him alone
and we will not be shaken_**

APOSTLE'S CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(D)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence.

P Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Resurrection and the Life! You bestow, here and now, a vision of that new creation, in which sin and death are no more. Our words falter. We truly are "lost in wonder, love, and praise." To you alone, blessed Jesus, be the glory! Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Fill your whole Church with the Holy Spirit. Make it constant in faith, bold in witness, joyful in worship, patient in adversity, cheerful in service, rich in compassion, and radiant with holiness. Through it, lead many, as you led Cornelius and his household, to life, salvation, and fellowship with all who love you. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Stir up the Spirit's power in this congregation to know Christ and make Christ known. Make us burn with love for you and for our neighbors. Give us that joy which the world cannot give. Help us share that joy with all who need it most. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We pray for all who stand in harm's way on behalf of others. Help them to do their jobs faithfully, bravely and well. Bring them home in safety when their service is completed. Speed the day when there is no more warfare, pain, or death, and all your people may live at peace with you and with each other. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Fill this world with your goodness and righteousness, until every creature, person, nation, and tribe shouts praises to your name for the abundant life that only you can give. Teach the rulers of the nations – and the leaders of commerce, technology, education, medicine, and law – to seek truth; to delight in wisdom; to deliberate and decide with justice; and to act with generosity and humility. And teach everyone to live in peace and fellowship with one another. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Wipe away the tears, and take away the suffering, of all whose need is great. Especially we plead on behalf of: **{List}**. Give them, and all who love them, a measure of your Kingdom's joy and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end of all things. You are the light and life of all who died trusting in you. Keep us in fellowship with them, through the bond of your Spirit. By the same Spirit, raise up all whom you have redeemed. Lead us into your Father's presence as a holy community-- your family. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE OFFERING

(U)

THE OFFERTORY "Praise To You, O God Of Mercy"

**Praise to you, O God of mercy;
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly;
thanks be to you forever!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

- P Lift up your hearts.**
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise

- P 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.**

You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

**Holy Holy Holy Holy, Lord, God of pow'r and might_,
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosannah_ in the highest.
Bless'd is He who comes in Your name_,
Hosannah_ in the highest!**

- P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord**

**Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.**

- P 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:**
- C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**
- P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.**
- C Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P As a community, let us say the Lord's Prayer.**
- C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

(D)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

(U)

THE BLESSING

P Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING"

- 1 Love divine_, all loves excel - ling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth_ come down!
Fix in us_ thy humble dwel - ling,
all thy faithful mer - cies crown.
Jesus, thou_ art all compass - sion,
pure, unbound - ed love_ thou art;
vi - sit us_ with thy_ salva - tion,
enter ev - 'ry trembling heart.**

- 3 Come, Almigh - ty, to deliv - er;
let us all thy life_ receive;
suddenly_ return, and ne - ver,
nevermore thy tem - ples leave.
Thee we would_ be always bles - sing,
serve thee as_ thy hosts_ above,
pray_, and praise_ thee with - out ceas - ing,**

glor - y in_ thy perfect love.

DISMISSAL

- A** **Let us go forth in the name of the Lord,**
C **To know Christ, and to make Christ known.**
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE