

Welcome to our Sunday Worship
Please respect our safety and the safety of others:

- ❖ Wear your mask.
- ❖ Maintain a distance from others of at least six feet.
- ❖ Refrain from hand shaking or hugs.

May 2, 2021 9:00 A.M. Rite II
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE *In A Quiet Garden* Louise E. Stairs
(Please remain seated)

Surely the Presence Worship # 131

(Please stand)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant: 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**

THE GLORIA Hymnal # S 280

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

(Please be seated)

The First Reading: *(Lector)* A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This passage tells how the Gospel became a missionary faith outside of Judaism. A eunuch, a Gentile believer in Israel's God, would have been excluded from every Jewish congregation because he could not have any male heirs, "sons of the covenant." This story is told as part of the main theme of Acts: To trace the expansion of the early Church under the leadership of the apostles.

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. [8:26-40]

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30

Though not included here, this psalm begins with a cry of dereliction repeated by Jesus on the cross. Instead, this morning we have the psalm's ending, a hymn of praise and trust in the God who rules over all nations.

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 shall 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: (*Lector*) A reading from the First Letter of John.

Perhaps the finest definition of God is given here: "God is love." No one has seen God, but as we love one another we allow the world to catch a glimpse of God's true nature.

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. [4:7-21]

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: *For the beauty of the earth*

Worship # 40 vs 1,4

THE GOSPEL *(Please stand)*

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The allegory of the vine and the branches offers insight into the way the early Christian community saw the redemptive relationship between God, Jesus and the faithful. The solid trunk of the vine emerging from the ground grows long, tender branches on which the fruit is produced. Without those branches, newly grown each year, the vine cannot produce. Cut off from the root, the branches are useful only as kindling for a fire.

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." [15:1-8]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gradual: *For the beauty of the earth*

Worship # 40 v 5

SERMON *(Please be seated)*

NICENE CREED *(Please stand)*

We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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 I *(Please stand or kneel)*

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God,
and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church
of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all 78 churches of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, for the Anglican Communion
Diocese of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and for the universal church,
that they may be filled with thy truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Dabney our Bishop, Tom
our Rector, and for all the clergy and staff of St. Paul's, let us pray
to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe our President, Ron our governor, our county commissioners & those who advise them, for
the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Naples, for every city and community, and for those who live in them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of
the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the
wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and
for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We offer thanksgiving for those celebrating the anniversary of their birthday this week: Anthony Cimaglia, Leah Conne, Warren Adams, Brooke-Lynn Williams, and Norma Pappalardo, and those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage: Gerald & Cynthia Tysiak, Charles & Connie Guensch, and Anthony & Susan Cilluffo.

For [_____ and] all those on our parish prayer list , let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died, (especially _____,) in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To thee, O Lord our God.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (*Please stand*)

(Please be seated during hymn)

OFFERTORY *I love to tell the story*

Worship # 560 vs 1,2

Doxology (*Please stand*)

Hymnal #380 v 3

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 him 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...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

SANCTUS

Hymnal # S 130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember His death, We proclaim His resurrection, We await His coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 forever.

GREAT AMEN *Amen, Amen, Amen*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray.
Celebrant & People sing: *The Lord's Prayer* Worship #740

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant & People sing:
Fraction Anthem *Eat This Bread*

Worship # 697 (ref x 2)

*Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.*

For those unable to worship with us in person we pray:

O most blessed Savior, in union with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving, I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart; I unite myself to you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Amen

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart.

COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish a blessing instead, please fold your hands across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

Instrumental

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *(Please stand)*

Celebrant: All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People: And of Thine own have we given thee.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand or kneel)*

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.

BLESSING

Celebrant: And finally my brothers and sisters, live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shall be with you this day and all the days of your life.

(Please stand)

CLOSING HYMN *Joyful, joyful we adore thee*

Worship # 59 vs 1,3,4

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St. Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Celebrant issues the DISMISSAL

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Jubilation

James Denton

Today's 9:00 a.m. Worship Leaders: *Celebrant & Homilist:* The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, *Eucharistic Minister:* Michael Moore, *Lector & Intercessor:* Mary Ellen Wieber, *Music Director / Organist:* Eleanor Phelps, *Usher:* Judy Martin

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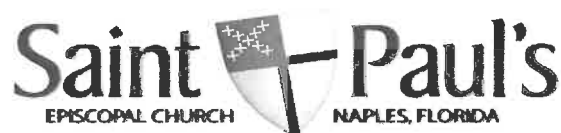
Active Altar Guild Members: Judy Allen- Lee Barron
Van Geoghegan - Nancy Smith - Carol Tracy - Cindy Tysiak

Honorary Altar Guild Members: Linda Condon - Melene & Ray Davila
Jean Hayes – Joan Menslage- Tootie Steineger – Bev Sweet

Other St. Paul's Sunday Worship Services
5 pm Worship in Creole

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, Rector
The Rev. Panel Guerrier, Assisting Priest for Creole Worship
Deb Avery, Parish Administrative Assistant
Virgil Manuel, Comptroller
Eleanor J. Phelps, Music Director



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SUNDAY: May 2, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Surely the presence of the Lord

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 presence of the Lord is in this place.

GRADUAL HYMN [before Gospel]:

For the beauty of the earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies;
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise;

GRADUAL HYMN [after Gospel]:

For thyself, best gift divine, to our race so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise;

OFFERTORY HYMN:

I love to tell the story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own Holy Word.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

CLOSING HYMN:

Joyful, joyful we adore thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother - all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.'

