



Christ the True Vine, Athens, 16th c.

St. Paul's Cathedral ✕ Burlington, Vermont

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ✕ May 2, 2021

- ☞ During this service the People respond using words printed in **bold** face.
- ☞ In this extraordinary time of pandemic, it is important to remember that scattered though we may be, we are one in our prayer.
- ☞ Before the service, the Presider may make announcements, after which stillness is kept.
- ☞ A short instrumental voluntary is played.

Opening Rite

We sing hymn 208 in The Hymnal 1982, on the next page. Please sing boldly at home.

The Alleluia antiphon is sung at the beginning and end of the hymn:

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The top staff is soprano, the middle staff is bass, and the bottom staff is bass (continuing from the middle staff). The music is divided into three sections: 1. Alleluia antiphon (repeated three times), 2. Hymn (verses 1-5), 3. Alleluia antiphon (repeated three times). The hymn text is in two columns. The first column contains lines 1, 2, *3, 4, and 5. The second column contains lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The third column contains lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The music features simple chords and some rhythmic patterns, with a pedal point marked 'Ped.' in the bass staves.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat the Alleluia antiphon

Words Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt. • Music VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); arr. W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

The Presider says,

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

We join in singing the ancient hymn Gloria in excelsis:

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al - migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our pray'r. For you a-lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the
Fa - - ther. A - men.

Setting Herbert J. Austin, 1978

The Presider says the Collect of the Day, first saying.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 Word of God

We hear a reading from early Christian literature:

A reading from the Acts 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.

Acts 8:26-40

Here ends the reading.

We sing Psalm 22:24-30. Please join in at home.

My praise is of you, O God, in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall | praise you: *
“May your heart live for | ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to | you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
For yours is the royal power, O | God; *
you rule over the | nations.

To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in | worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.
My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall | serve you; *
they shall be known as yours for | ever.

Repeat second half of psalm chant

They shall come and make known to a people yet un|born *
the saving deeds that you have | done.

Chant Mark Howe, 2014

We hear a reading from the Christian Epistles:

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.

1 John 4:7-21

Here ends the reading.

We sing hymn 379 in The Hymnal 1982 on the next page. Please sing boldly at home.

1 God is Love, let heav'n a - dore him; God is Love, let earth re -
 2 God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in one em -
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all hu - man

joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him and ex - alt him
 brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us, ev - ery child of
 life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness guides us through our

with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun - da - tion, God who
 ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are break - ing un - der us
 earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall nev - er o'er us

spread the heav'n's a - bove, God who breathes through all cre - a - tion:
 sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that self - same ach - ing
 fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so Love for ev - er

God is love, e - ter - nal love. God.

deep with - in the heart - nal of love. God.
 o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Words Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. • Music ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

We hear a reading from the Gospels.

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

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.”

John 15:1-8

Here ends the reading.

Homily *The Preacher breaks open the Word of God.*

After a brief time of stillness, we affirm our faith. Please join in at home.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

The Deacon says,

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Shannon;
for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church. *Stillness*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace. *Stillness*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Stillness*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Stillness*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

Pray for those who have died. *Stillness*

I ask your thanksgivings for friends and family, [especially _____]

Pray in gratitude for all of God's blessings. *Stillness*

I ask your prayers for _____ *A leader gives voice to petitions from the Zoom chat box*

Pray for the needs and hopes of this community.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Stillness*

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

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 for ever. Amen.

We join in singing hymn 765 in Wonder, Love, and Praise. Please sing boldly at home.

1 O bless - ed spring, where Word and sign
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth ful years,
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold,
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must,
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree,

em - brace us in to Christ the Vine:
 un - cer - tain faith, - re - bel - lious tears,
 when limbs their heav - y - har - hold,
 we breathe our last, - re - turn - dust;
 be praised for this blest - mys - ter - y:

here sus - Christ en joins Christ's each one to be
 sus - tained by - - - - - in - fus - ing rain,
 then through us, in Christ - - - - - in the Christ will move
 still held in and wa - - - - - our souls thus take wing
 that Word - - - - - ter - - - - - re - - - - - vive

a branch of this life - - - - - giv - - - - - ing Tree.
 the boughs will shout for joy - - - - - a gain.
 with gifts of beau - ty, wis - - - - - dom, the love.
 and trust the pro - mise of the spring.
 and join us to your Tree of Life.

Words Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953) • Music BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

The Presider blesses the People:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
 make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
 working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
 and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

The Deacon dismisses us, saying

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

An instrumental voluntary is played. Coffee hour follows immediately.

+ + +

Presider & Preacher Greta Getlein & Deacon Stannard Baker & Readers Susan McMillan, Emiry Potter &
 Cantor & Organist Mark Howe & Digital Stewards Emiry Potter