



Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church: A Community of Grace
We embrace Christ, share the Gospel, and love like Jesus.

Holy Eucharist + May 2, 2021 + Easter 5

On Facebook at 10 AM Click the link below to join the service:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintmarksepiscopalparishupland/posts/4022365927830728>

Worship is about re-connecting with the presence of God in Jesus Christ. Please engage as you are able and as fits your needs. Please pray and sing aloud. Please consider responding to the readings, announcements, and prayer requests. A special thank you for those who make our in-spirit worship possible. And for those who read, listen, view, like, comment, share and subscribe.

The season of Easter lasts through Pentecost Sunday (23 May 2021) and is also known as the Great Fifty Days. The season is marked with Alleluias, the Paschal Candle, a reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the colors white and gold, and, in certain communities, the omission of the confession. Seasonal highlights: Pentecost May 23 featuring different languages; Ascension Day May 13 featuring Beating of the Bounds; and Mothers' Day May 9.

Easter is about resurrection not just resuscitation. Let us be open to seeing, speaking, hearing, knowing, and doing things in new and different ways. To highlight this aspiration, we will be using a Thomas Merton prayer for the postcommunion prayer.

Welcome from the People - when able

Opening Voluntary

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Ernewertes Gesangbuch/setting Benjamin Culli

Welcome from the Rector

Opening Acclamation

Reader 01: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Collect for Purity

Reader 01: **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.**

Opening Hymn

"Sing Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness"

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Finnian

Collect of the Day

Reader 02 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.**

Lessons

During the reading of the lessons, please be aware of a word, phrase, or image that grabs your attention. Please consider adding them in the comments.

Acts 8:26-40 1

John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Acts of the Apostles: What word, phrase, or image grabs your attention?

Reader 03: 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.

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

Thanks be to God.

Epistle: What word, phrase, or image grabs your attention?

Reader 04: 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.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: What word, phrase, or image grabs your attention?

Clergy 2: The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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 vine grower. 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 our Savior. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: What word, phrase, or image grabs your attention?

The Apostles' Creed: Presented by Special Guest Clergy

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 to the dead. 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.

Prayers of the People: Please add your prayers and petitions

Clergy 2: Living God, you restore the life of those in the grave: may we, and all the dead, experience resurrection and life everlasting. In the breaking of the bread, our eyes are opened to the presence of Christ, and in the opening of our lips we give thanks and intercession through our prayers, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

Readers 05: Author of life, help us to witness to the power of your Son's resurrection, that through our words and actions, others may come to know your gift of forgiveness and the power of eternal love that yields a perfect harvest; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Defender of our cause, strengthen our resolve to bring your hope to all parts of the world, and to the leaders of the nations give the wisdom to overcome barriers to peace and security; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Creator of the universe, inspire the people in our churches to imaginatively reach out in witness to those who have no understanding of the Christian faith, or who no longer take part in the fellowship of the baptized; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Divine presence, reveal your death, resurrection and coming again through the mystery of your body and blood, that we who know you in the breaking of the bread, may be spiritual food for those who do not know you; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Eternal one, be with those whose earthly life has run its course; may they and all the faithful departed, through your mercy, rest in peace; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

God of our salvation, who took our place before the madding crowd, fill our hearts with gratitude and lift our voices with the song of thanksgiving; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

As a people of repentance, forgiveness, and liberation, let us continue our prayers.

Concluding Collect

Confession & Absolution of Sin

During the Great 50 days of Easter the confession of sin is omitted as a reminder that it is through God's grace that we are forgiven, not through our efforts at a complete or convincing confession.

Peace: Please offer God's peace to those in person, in spirit, and in need

*Clergy 1: The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.***

Announcements: Please add announcements in the comments

Please visit our website for the latest: www.stmarks-upland.org

Offertory Sentence: Many thanks for all your contributions

Reader 06: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

Introduction to Offertory Anthem/Hymn

Offertory Anthem/Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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Hyfrydol

Doxology

*Clergy 1: All things come of thee, O God. **And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

Sursum Corda

Readers 07:

God dwells in you. **And also in you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give our thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer for Easter by Kay Sylvester: Part 1

Clergy 1: Creator God, we see your handiwork in everything that is: every molecule and every galaxy displays your creating love. We thank you for the endless beauty and joy of your Creation. We thank you that, by your exquisite attention, you created life – all life, everywhere, from the one-celled water dwellers to the mighty elephants and whales. The

majesty and delight of living things surrounds us, and we thank you that our lives are part of a radiant web of holy, interconnected breath and energy. Your divine life surrounds us and permeates us. We praise you in the song of all Creation:

Sanctus

Reader 07: Holy, holy, holy lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Prayer: Part 2

We acknowledge, O God, the many ways in which we fail to care for the world, and for each other. Though you teach us in the textbook of Creation, and invite us to listen to your law and hear your prophets, we have not heeded your love for us and your call to us.

In your good time, O God, you sent Jesus to share our nature and live our life. He brought healing and hope to those who suffer; he calmed the storm of our despair; he met our hunger with your abundance. Even so, we struggle to comprehend your kingdom of peace and limitless grace; so, on the very night before he died, we remember that Jesus kept the Passover with his friends. He took bread, gave you thanks, and shared it with them, saying, take and eat; this bread is my body, given to set you free. 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, saying, drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the everlasting promise, given to set you free. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember the long night of his despair, when he prayed as his friends slept. Betrayed, denied, and abandoned, he was arrested and condemned to death. We remember that he did not fight; we remember that he did not flee; we remember that he was crucified and died. We remember that his story continues. With the women at the tomb and the frightened disciples, we proclaim the mystery of our Easter faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Reader 07: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eucharistic Prayer: Part 3

Gracious God, send your Spirit upon these gifts that your earth has given and human hands have made; let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the holy food and drink of new and unending life. Give us, in this holy food, the courage to witness to the power of Resurrection to overcome despair, and to heal us. By your Holy Spirit, unite us into a community of faith and an outpost of your kingdom, where the powers of the world are overthrown by your perfect love.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we give you thanks, O God of grace and resurrection light, here and everywhere, now and forever. Alleluia! **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

Reader 08: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Clergy 1: The consecrated Bread is broken. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

Reader 09: God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us. Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

The Invitation

Clergy 1: No matter who you are, who you love, what you believe or have done, you are welcome to this Holy Communion – the Gifts of God for the people of God.

Spiritual Communion Introduction

Clergy 2: A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Spiritual Communion Prayer: St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787

Reader 10: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer for Eastertide: Thomas Merton

Reader 11: Gracious God, we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead of us. We cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do we really know ourselves, and the fact that we think that we are following your will does not mean that we are actually doing so. But we believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And we hope we have that desire in all that we are doing. We hope that we will never do anything apart from that desire. And we know that if we do this you will lead us by the right road, though we may know nothing about it. Therefore, we will trust you always, though we may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. We will not fear, for you are ever with us, and you will never leave us to face our perils alone. Amen.

Introduction to Mission Hymn

Mission Hymn

"I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord"

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Land of Rest

Blessing

Clergy 2: ...now and always. **Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Dismissal

Clergy 1: Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Closing Voluntary

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

Rheinfelsisches Gesangbuch/setting Benjamin Culli