

# FIFTH. SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

May, 2021

*Hymn* ..... Come as you are, that's how I want you  
Come as you are, that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home.  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;  
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.  
No need to fear, love never ends.  
Don't run away, shamed as disheartened.  
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.  
Each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.  
Come as you are, trust me again.  
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.  
All will be well, just come as you are.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

Christ is risen. Alleluia.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **Sentence**

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4.10–11 (*1 John 4.10-11*)

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
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.**

## **CONFESSION**

### **Invitation to Confession**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you**

**in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Absolution.*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.**

#### **THE COLLECT**

O God,  
form the minds of your faithful people,  
that we may love what you command

and desire what you promise,  
so that, amid the many changes of this world,  
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles (8.26-40)**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.'  
(This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup> 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  
<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'

<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

<sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> 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?’

<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> 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.

<sup>40</sup> 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 the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow each reading.*

### **Responsorial Psalm 22(26-32)**

<sup>26</sup> From you springs my praise in the great congregation:  
I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

<sup>27</sup> **The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him—  
may their hearts rejoice for ever!**

<sup>28</sup> Let all the ends of the earth remember  
and turn to the Lord:  
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.

<sup>29</sup> **For the kingdom is the Lord’s:  
and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

<sup>30</sup> How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:  
or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

<sup>31</sup> **But he has saved my life for himself:  
and my posterity shall serve him.**

<sup>32</sup> This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:  
and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

## **A Reading from Saint Paul's first letter to John... (4.7-21)**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow each reading.*

## **Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15.1-8)

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

*Silence may follow.*

**THE CREED**

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

**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 and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped 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.

### **Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

*The priest says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Offertory**

*Hymn* ... How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the troubled breast;  
is manna to the hungry soul,  
And to the weary, rest.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart,  
How cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see you as you are,  
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim  
With every fleeting breath;  
And may the music of your name  
Refresh my soul in death.

## 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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life  
triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended,  
a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored  
and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,

and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.  
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.  
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us your peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God  
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of  
Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in  
our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **Administration of Communion**

### **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Most glorious Lord of life,  
we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill  
us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may  
witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

#### **Blessing**

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of  
Christ, who raised us to newness of life through the waters of  
baptism, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting  
freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your  
eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you  
always. **Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: Alleluia, alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia**

*Hymn* .... Christ the world's light  
Christ the world's light, he and none other;  
born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
*Glory to God on high.*

2. Christ the world's peace, he and none other;  
no one can serve him and despise his brother.  
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?  
*Glory to God on high.*

3. Christ the world's life, he and none other;  
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother –  
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:  
*Glory to God on high.*

4. Give God the glory, God and none other;  
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
give God the Glory, God in man my brother: