

Divine Service - Fifth Sunday of Easter

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION ... May 2, 2021

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 465 ss. 1-4

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Adoring praises now we bring,
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
CONG..... Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

JOHN 16:16; PS 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.
I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.
A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-
being of the Church of God, and for the unity
of all let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
LORD.
CONG..... *Amen.*

Choir: Holy Spirit, Light Divine 496 ss. 1-5

1 Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

2 Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.

3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

4 Holy Spirit, joy divine
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

5 Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

O God, You made the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.
Grant that we may love what You have commanded and
desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this
world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The First Reading: ACTS 8:26-40

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

33

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the

Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gradual: Adapt. from MATT. 28:7; HEB. 2:7; PS 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

He has put all things under his feet.

The Epistle: I JOHN 4:1-11

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Verse: ROM. 6:9; JOHN 14:23

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: ST. JOHN 15:1-8

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

The Sermon Hymn: 611 ss. 1-5

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'n's
above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me— wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

3. Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to
heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

4. Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5. O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow
way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Sermon: "You Are Branches In Jesus!" ST JOHN 15:1-8

The Post-Sermon Hymn: 865 ss. 1-4

1 Lord, help us ever to retain
The Catechism's doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth
In simple style to tender youth.

2 Help us Your holy Law to learn,
To mourn our sin and from it turn
In faith to You and to Your Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

3 Hear us, dear Father, when we pray
For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live,
Whom You baptized and so received.

4 Lord, when we fall or go astray,
Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase
Our faith till we depart in peace.

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Collect for the Word

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott

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