



# *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Sunday, May 2, 2021*

*9:45 AM*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Joyous Declaration

Pastor: In the name of the Creator God and of the Redeeming Son, and the ever-present Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### Organ Prelude: "Pastorale"

Richard Purvis

### Call to Worship

*One:* Friends of God, you are called to praise and prayer.

**All: It is our joyful and thankful response to God's goodness.**

*One:* Friends of God, you are called to hear the Word:

**All: the Word that instructs, the Word that challenges, the Word that reveals the teaching of Jesus Christ.**

*One:* Friends of God, you are called into a faith community:

**All: a community that encourages, a community that brings out talent, a community that works in harmony,**

*One:* Friends of God, you are called to a far-reaching vision:

**All: a vision beyond the local church, even beyond the boundaries of the nation. Our giving and our service will honor the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### Opening Hymn: "Called As Partners in Christ's Service"

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

### Call to Confession

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

### Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

### First Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>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 Savior 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 judgment, 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.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Affirmation of Faith: “Apostles’ Creed”

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and 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

Leader: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Leader: God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name.

## Words of Institution

### Communion Prayer

Pastor: We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us.

Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**People: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy one, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

Let us pray the prayer that our Savior taught us.

**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.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Call to the Supper

Pastor: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table.

Alleluia! Come to the feast.

### Sharing of the Elements

#### Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**People: Amen.**

#### Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation"

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with you in trouble to bless,  
And sanctify to you your deepest distress."**

**"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

Moment of Meditation

Benediction

Dismissal

Pastor: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Rhosymedre"

J.D. Edwards

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