

# **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY COMMUNION**

2 May 2021

## **GATHERING**

### **OPENING HYMN “Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded”**

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| <p>1. Day of delight and<br/>    beauty unbounded,<br/>tell the news, the gospel spread!<br/>Day of all wonder,<br/>    day of all splendor,<br/>praise Christ risen from the dead!<br/>Sing of the sun from<br/>    darkness appearing;<br/>sing of the seed from<br/>    barren earth greening;<br/>sing of creation, alleluia!<br/>Sing of the stream from<br/>    Jesus’ side flowing;<br/>sing of the saints in<br/>    water made holy;<br/>sing of salvation, alleluia!</p> | <p>2. Day of delight and<br/>    beauty unbounded,<br/>tell the news, the gospel spread!<br/>Day of all wonder,<br/>    day of all splendor,<br/>praise Christ risen from the dead!<br/>Sing now of mourning<br/>    turned into dancing;<br/>sing now the myst’ry,<br/>    hope of our glory;<br/>sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!<br/>Sing now of fasting<br/>    turned into feasting;<br/>sing the Lord’s favor<br/>    lasting forever;<br/>sing, all things living, alleluia!</p> |
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### **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**“Now the Feast”**

**Refrain:**

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life  
and love and freedom;  
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. Now is the feast  
of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.

**Refrain**

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** **O God, we cannot live apart from Christ the true vine. Nourish our life in Christ’s resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

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**WORD**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**“Christ Is the Vine”**

**James Biery, comp.**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

**Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

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**ALLELUIA VERSE**

Alleluia, alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

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**THE GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**THE SERMON**

**Pastor Aaron Couch**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“O Blessed Spring”**

1. O blessed spring,  
    where word and sign  
    embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
    here Christ enjoins each one to be  
    a branch of this life-giving Tree.
2. Through summer heat  
    of youthful years,  
    uncertain faith, rebellious tears,  
    sustained by Christ's infusing rain,  
    the boughs will shout for joy again.
3. When autumn cools  
    and youth is cold,  
    when limbs their heavy harvest hold,  
    then through us, warm,  
    the Christ will move  
    with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
4. As winters come, as winters must,  
    we breathe our last, return to dust;  
    still held in Christ,  
    our souls take wing  
    and trust the promise of the spring.
5. Christ, holy Vine,  
    Christ, living Tree,  
    be praised for this blest mystery:  
    that word and water thus revive  
    and join us to your Tree of Life.

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: Made alive in Christ and filled with God's Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition...*

Assistant: Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude...*

Pastor: Receive our prayers, merciful God, and fill us with the risen life of Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

### SETTING THE TABLE

#### **Refrain:**

**As the grains of wheat  
once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one  
to become our bread;  
so may all your people  
from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.**

1. As this cup of blessing  
is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love.

#### **Refrain**

2. Let this be a foretaste  
of all that is to come  
when all creation shares  
this feast with you.

#### **Refrain**

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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Holy and living God, we give you thanks for Jesus...  
...Through Christ all honor and glory is yours, O God, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. As this gathering becomes Christ's table, we all are known and loved.

### BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and these gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

**People: In this meal, O God, you have strengthened us by the risen life of your Son. As you send us into the world, guide us on paths of justice and teach us to live as servants to one another. In Christ's name we pray. Amen**

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**SENDING**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen and bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

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**CLOSING HYMN**

**“On Our Way Rejoicing”**

1. On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered;  
vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety;  
Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?

2. Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing  
now and evermore.

**Refrain:**

**On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!**

**Refrain**

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**SENDING**

Assistant: Go in peace. Through you Christ blesses the world.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**