



Throughout the 50 days of Easter, paraments in the chancel point us to the good news of Christ's resurrection. The lectern fall during this season announces our Lord's victory over sin and death with a symbol of his death and resurrection. By the cross, our Lord grants forgiveness, and through the empty tomb, Jesus is raised for our justification. This is God's glory and victory, for Christ now reigns over all things.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

We gather to celebrate and proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**P** = Pastor   **A** = Assisting Pastor   **C** = Congregation   **L** = Leader

## Gathering Song

"Welcome Table"

Gath-er 'round the wel-come ta - ble. There is room, there's e - nough.  
 Bring your bro - ken, life un - sta - ble. Come and feast in God's love.  
 Come you wound-ed, here is heal - ing. Come you  
 Come you emp - ty, here is plen - ty. Come you  
 Here's a ban - quet, leave your weap - ons. Christ is  
 out - cast, find your right - ful place. Come you guilt - y,  
 anx - ious, you were meant to thrive. Come you wea - ry,  
 ris - ing in your neigh - bor's face. Here's your fam - ily,  
 here's a prom - ise: for bro - ken liv - ing there's a - maz - ing grace.  
 find your rest. † The tomb is emp - ty, God is loose! A - live!  
 all are hun - gry. God set the ta - ble, time to take your place.

## Welcome and Announcements

*Please stand.*

### Invocation

**A** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Hymn 793

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

*Silence for reflection.*

- A** Let us confess our sin to God our Father. Most merciful God,
- C** 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. 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.
- A** 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 minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray. 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.
- C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading:** 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.

**First Reading** Acts 8:26-40

NT page 120, pew Bible

- L** Word of God, Word of Life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalms 22:25-31** (*read responsively*)

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
 Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!  
 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
 all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**  
 who rules over the nations.  
 Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.  
**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**  
 whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.  
 They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
 saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

**Second Reading:** We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

**Second Reading** 1 John 4:7-21

NT page 230, pew Bible

- L** Word of God, Word of Life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Tom Stadem

*Please stand.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le - lu - ia

Lord, to whom shall we go? *Fine* You have the

words of e - ter - nal life.

**Gospel Announcement**

- P** The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel:** *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.*  
 † Today's preaching text.

**Gospel** John 15:1-8 †

NT page 104, pew Bible

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Tom Stadem

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand.*

### Song of the Day

### "God of the Harvest"

You are God of the seed, God of the soil, God of the hope,

God of the toil. You are God of the rain, God of the sun,

God of the har - vest with blessings for ev - 'ry-one.

From the fields and the gar - dens come your  
From the womb of all cre - a - tion springs the

bless - ed gifts of life. Col - ors blos - som, vines are  
fruit, the liv - ing light. Grace a - bun - dant, mer - cy

danc - ing, roots up - lift - ed with our thanks. You are  
flow - ing nour - ish - ing and bring - ing life. You are

*Coda*

Where there is hunger, where there is need,

may we share your boun-ty, may we al - ways see... you are

*D.S. al Fine*

*Nicene Creed: Early in its history, the Nicene Creed was spoken in worship when Holy Communion was celebrated. As weekly communion became the practice in Christian congregations, we now reserve this Creed for festival days and seasons—of which the Easter season is primary.*

## Nicene Creed

- A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- C** 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 worshiped 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 Church

- A** Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Following each petition:*

- A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

- A** Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

## Sharing of the Peace

- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

*Please be seated.*

**Offering**

Song

**"Do Justice"**


Rac - ing a - round, chas - ing i - dols,  
 Peo - ple bro - ken, fall - ing piec - es,  
 Dead - ly hun - ger, desper - ate cry - ing,

un - ful - filled, emp - ty ves - sels.  
 dig - ni - ty lost, lov - ing ceas - es.  
 wound - ed liv - ing, chil - dren dy - ing.

World on the edge, out of con - trol,  
 Hope - less eyes, lone - ly fac - es,  
 Nails in the flesh, pierc - ing fear,

will we sur - vive, God on - ly knows.  
 yearn - ing hearts, hurt - ing plac - es.  
 why can't we see Christ hang - ing here?

Do jus - tice, love mer - cy,

walk hum - bly with our God, with our God.

*Please stand.*

**Words of Institution:** Hear Christ's words of promise spoken again "for you, for the forgiveness of your sin."

**Words of Institution****The Lord's Prayer**

- A** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- C** 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.
- A** Our risen Lord comes to us in the breaking of the bread with his body and blood, promising forgiveness and new life. Let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.
- C** This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!

*Please be seated.*

### Communion

Song

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world, have  
mer-cy up - on us. Lamb of God you  
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the  
world. Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

Song

"Bread of Life"

Bread of Life, Bread of Life, come and feed our souls.  
*Last time Fine*  
*3rd time to Bridge*  
Bread of Life, Bread of Life, come and make us whole.  
We are hun-gry for your mer - cy, hun-gry for your peace.  
We are hun-gry for your pres - ence, man-na from a - bove.  
We are hun-gry for your jus - tice, hun-gry to be free.  
Bread of Life for all cre - a - tion fill us with your love.  
*Bridge*  
Liv - ing Bread from heav - en, source of all we need.  
*D.C. al Fine*  
Liv - ing Bread from heav - en, help us to be - lieve.

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Tootie Oachs

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*Please stand.*

### Blessing

- A** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

### Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray. Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven, the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, keep us steadfast in the promise and life-giving hope of your resurrection, that by the Holy Spirit we might testify to the power and grace of your work for us and all people.
- C** Amen.

### Benediction

- P** May God who has brought us from death to life grant you faith to trust in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### Sending Hymn 779

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

NEW BRITAIN  
Stanzas 1 and 4

### Dismissal

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A** Go in peace in the freedom of the risen Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God! Alleluia!