

Easter 5 April 29/May 2, 2021

Prelude Music:

Welcome and Announcements:

Good morning, welcome to worship on this 5th Sunday of Easter. I'm glad you can join us on Facebook, YouTube or reading this worship at your home.

Thank you for continuing to support the mission of FE w/ your gifts.

Stew's Stories: *"Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord."* Psalm 22:30 Who first told you the good news about Jesus? Chances are it was a beloved elder, either a family member or pillar of the church. We receive the wisdom of our ancestors, and then we take on the mantle of responsibility and good stewardship to pass that good news along to future generations.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: We worship in the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the minister gives thanks.

L: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: #447 "O Blessed Spring"

Greeting and Call to Worship – Psalm 22

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

C: And also with you.

A: I will sing of you in the great assembly, make good my promise before your faithful.

C: The poor shall eat all they want. Seekers of God shall give praise. "May your hearts live forever!"

A: All peoples shall remember and turn, all races bow to the Lord, who holds dominion over the nations.

C: The well-fed crowd kneel before God, all destined to die bow low.

A: My soul lives for the Lord! My children will serve and will proclaim God to the future,

C: announcing to peoples yet unborn, "God saves!"

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray: O God, you give us your Son as the vine in whom we live. Nourish our life in his resurrection. May we 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. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know we abide in God and God in us, because God gives us the Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we know and believe the love God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love is perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song 1:

Children's Sermon –

Sermon

Song 2:

Prayers of Intercession

A: For the prayers, I will end each petition with the words: *Hear us, O God.* Your response is: ***Your mercy is great.***

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

Brief silence.

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. May we bear fruit and witness to your love. Bless our bishops - Elizabeth and Anne; Pr. Jack & Maanoane Parish; and missionary, Pr. Alex. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You 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. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence. May they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You love us so we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: People who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, *especially Al; Liz; Carol; Dolores; Delbert; Tom; Janey; Mary; Kay; Kathi; Gary; Ron; Bruce; Reese; Joan; Matt; Bob; Thomas; Mark; and all with Covid-19. For medical researchers, hospital personnel, doctors and nurses, especially Deb; Holli; Joy; Kara; Taylor; Lilly; Olivia; Todd; Reese; Pat; and Bonnie.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, now hear the prayers of your people. (*Brief silence.*)

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

L: We pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and respond to people in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by God's Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

The Body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Song: ""

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

Post Communion Prayer

L: We pray. 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 to your amazing love, which brings joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Song: #821 "Shout to the Lord" Sing 2 times

Blessing:

L: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom,

to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal: Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude:

Call to Worship/Psalm 22 from "The Psalter." Used with permission.

Scripture readings and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42253. New Revised Standard Version Bible,
copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the United States of
America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.