

Morning Prayer for the Easter Season
Sunday May 2, 2021, 5th Sunday of Easter

A Penitential Order

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. **John 15.5**

The presider then says,

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour

A moment of silence

God of all mercy,

**All: we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
so that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider: May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit
and raise you to new life in Jesus Christ.

Amen

Opening Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Introductory Responses

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: In your resurrection, O Christ,

All: **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

Leader: Blessed are you, God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the loving reign of the risen Christ.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this

scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

The Responory

Leader: Death is swallowed up in victory.

All: **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

All: **Death is swallowed up in victory.**

Leader: The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.

All: **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Leader: We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

All: **Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your sting?**

Psalm 22:24-30

Leader: My praise is of God in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.

All: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: *
“May your heart live for ever!”**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

All: **For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, *
who rules over the nations.**

Leader: To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

All: **My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.**

Leader: They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that God has done.

All: Gracious God, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit

All: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

All: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

(Refrain). *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. **(Refrain)**

Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away. *(Refrain)*

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you. *(Refrain)*

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves;
this is the way we should live with you. *(Refrain)*

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet;
this is the way we should live with you. *(Refrain)*

Gospel: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon: Bishop Lesley

Affirmation of Faith. Hear O Israel

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

The Prayers of the People

In the Worldwide Anglican cycle of prayer today we pray for
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

In the Canadian Anglican - Lutheran cycle of prayer we pray for
The Most Rev. Anne Germond, Bishop and the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, assisting Bishop
and the clergy and people of the Missionary Area of Moosonee in the Anglican Church of
Canada and the dean, council, and congregations of the Winnipeg South Area of the
Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the people and community of Fort Nelson,
BC and the parish of St. Mary Magdalene. We pray for all of those along mile 150 to 506
of the Alaska Highway and for those in Toad River. We give thanks, and pray, for The
Rev Walter Kagura & Primrose, The Rev Glen Gough & Sarah and Licensed Lay
Minister Mark Tudor.

The Litany

Leader: Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings,
saying, ‘Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.’

May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

All: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Leader: May all people receive the good news of Christ’s victory.

All: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Leader: May those born to new life in the waters of baptism
know the power of Christ’s resurrection.

All: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Leader: May those who suffer pain and anguish
find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

All: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Leader: May we be united in Christ’s undying love
with all who have passed through the gates of death.

All: Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

The Collect

**O God of deep soil and luxurious growth, you call us from our shallow selves to find
our depth in you: may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are, Jesus
Christ, the true vine. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Rejoicing in God's new creation and gathering our prayers and praises into one, in the language that is closest to your heart, let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: Lift High the Cross

***(Refrain) Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!***

Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out. ***(Refrain)***

Jesus, you wept to see our human strife:
teach us compassion for each human life. ***(Refrain)***

Peace was your plea, and peace your loving theme:
let peace be our passport, peace a living dream. ***(Refrain)***

Great is the cost of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer with the Son of God. ***(Refrain)***

Worlds to be born and children yet to be,
come, take up this song into eternity. ***(Refrain)***

The Dismissal.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Leader: May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

All: Amen.