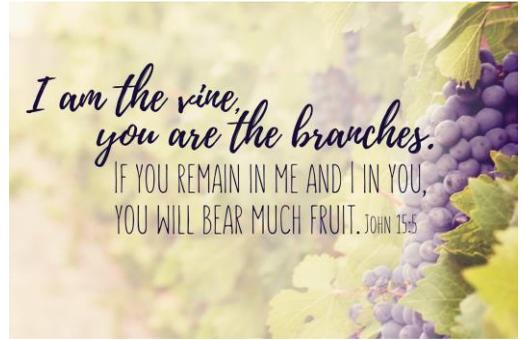


The Fifth Sunday of Easter
The Liturgy of the Word
Sunday 9:00 am (Online)



Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Hymn

God is Love

Hymnal #379

God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heaven above,
God who breathes through all creation: God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and Love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace:
with unfailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever o'er the universe must reign.

Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Epistle – 1 John 4:7-21

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 that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. 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 that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. 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 he 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 him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM: *Psalm 22:24-30*

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

*and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: **

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him;

*my descendants shall serve him; **

they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Holy Gospel – *John 15:1-8*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Response ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

[Jesus said to his disciples,] 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 that 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.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Reflection Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

Hymnal #439

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

American folk hymn, ca. 1835

Nicene Creed

***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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 People

Presider

With all our heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord saying: **Hear our Prayer.**

Presider

God, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

***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,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

Hymnal #671

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!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

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.

John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

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