

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Easter People Proclaim Jesus  
April 28, 2024  
10:30am

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**AS WE GATHER**

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God’s life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

**WELCOME**

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

**HANDSHAKES & HUGS**

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“In the Tomb So Cold”**

In the tomb so cold they laid Him, death its victim claimed.

Powers of hell, they could not hold Him; Back to life He came!

Refrain: Praise Team	Congregation
Christ is risen!	Christ is risen!
Death has been conquered.	Death has been conquered.
Christ is risen!	Christ is risen!

All: He shall reign forever.

Hell had spent its fury on Him, left Him crucified.

Yet, by blood, He boldly conquered, sin and death defied. Refrain

Now the fear of death is broken, love has won the crown.

Prisoners of the darkness listen, walls are tumbling down. Refrain

Raised from death to heaven ascending, loves exalted King.

Let His song of joy, unending, through the nations ring! Refrain (2X)

(Rise)

**INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**People: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

**People: All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have transgressed your law. For this I justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**                      **“My Redeemer Lives”**

Verse:            I know He rescued my soul  
                      His blood has covered my sin  
                      I believe, I believe  
                      My shame, He’s taken away  
                      My pain is healed in His name  
                      I believe, I believe  
                      I’ll raise a banner  
                      ‘Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

Chorus:            My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives  
                      My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives

*Repeat verse and chorus*

Bridge:            You lift my burdens, I’ll rise with You  
                      I’m dancing on this mountaintop to see Your kingdom come...

*Sing chorus twice*

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you make the minds of your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what you have commanded and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**☩ WORD ☩**

**FIRST READING** Acts 8:26–40 (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.<sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”<sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.<sup>32</sup> 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”<sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”<sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.<sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** 1 John 4:1–11 (An exhortation to lives of Christian love) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.<sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is

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in you is greater than he who is in the world.<sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.<sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 15:1–8* (Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.<sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**“Jesus Rose for You and Me”** (*tune: Jesus Loves Me*)

Jesus rose for you and me “Alleluia” let us sing.  
Someday we will live with Him “Alleluia” let us sing.  
Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia!  
He rose for you and me.

Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

## SERMON HYMN

**“On the Third Day”**

Creation brings an offering, as autumn leaves turn to gold  
The trees bow down in highest praise now made bare before Your throne.  
The western sky, an amber blaze, at the end of the day.  
For ev’rything must die to rise again.

The winter’s chill, a bitter cold, as sin and shame leave us to fall,  
The clouds now full of newborn snow, for grace to come and save us all,  
Within the darkest night of man, was found Your saving hand.  
For everything must die to rise again.

Chorus: On the third day behold the King  
On the third day death has no sting.  
On the third day, we’re forgiven and reconciled.

The earth it groans in labor pains as flowers stretch to heav’n above.  
Your creatures sing the prophet’s song to be a gift of selfless love.  
The sun is rising in the east, and Your Spirit is unleashed  
For ev’rything must die to rise again.

*Repeat Chorus*

And so we wait in joyful hope for You to come and take us home  
And so we join beneath the cross in suffering from whence we go  
The greatest act of sov’rign grace in the universe displayed  
For ev’rything must die to rise again.

*Ending:* On the third day behold the King  
On the third day death has no sting.  
On the third day, we're forgiven and reconciled.  
On the third day the saints rejoice  
On the third day, we lift our voice.  
On the third day, we're united and glorified.

## SERMON

(Rise)

### OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

### NICENE CREED

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**  
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**  
**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Lord God, your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, you have grafted us onto the vine of your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty and ever-living God, who through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, have established Him as the true vine, and appointed us as its branches, we ask you to bless our endeavors in planting new congregations. Lead us, O Lord, with your Holy Spirit, that rooted in your Word, we may flourish in faith and vigorously pursue the mission you have entrusted to us. Grant us grace, that abiding in Christ, and He in us, we may be instrumental in bringing forth new communities gathered around Word and Sacrament, that your name might be glorified. Strengthen our resolve and enlarge our vision, that through these new congregations, many may be welcomed into your family, to live under your care and guidance. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Savior of all people, in the water of Baptism you welcome sinners into your kingdom and give them life. Grant that we would always honor and extol this gift, and let nothing prevent people from it. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, give health and guidance to our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with your good order. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Living God, thank you for the gift of life. We especially thank you this week for the birthday of Stacey Kukor this week. Thank you for the years you have blessed her, and we pray for many more. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful God, you hear and answer your children in their hour of need. Give aid to Irene, Carole, Ruth, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to you, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, you are love, and you always reveal your love through your Son. Grant that all who come to your feast of love may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, so that whoever abides in this love forever abides in you and you in him. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Father, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and your saints shall bless you; for you live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to you, Lord our God, for you have graciously blessed us through the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify your holy name. With joy we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

### SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and have showed your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. We give you thanks that in His most Holy Supper you nourish us that, firmly connected to Christ the Vine, we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command.

## 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment.

### PAX DOMINI

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

**People: Amen.**

### AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #685

### "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

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**HYMN****“Amen (Because He lives)”**

I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One  
 I believe I overcome, by the power of His blood

Chorus: Amen, Amen,  
 I’m alive, I’m alive, because He lives  
 Amen, Amen,  
 Let my song join the one that never ends.  
 Because He lives.

I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame.  
 I heard mercy call my name, He rolled the stone away.  
 Repeat Chorus

Bridge: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
 Because He lives, ev’ry fear is gone.  
 I know He holds my life, my future in His hands.

Repeat Chorus twice  
 Ending: Because He lives.

**HYMN****“Easter Song”**

Verse Hear the bells ringing they're singing  
 That we can be born again  
 Hear the bells ringing they're singing  
 Christ is risen from the dead  
 The angel up on the tombstone said  
 He is risen just as He said  
 Quickly now go tell His disciples  
 That Jesus Christ is no longer dead

Chorus Joy to the world  
 He is risen alleluia  
 He's risen alleluia  
 He's risen alleluia alleluia  
 Alleluia

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**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy Father, we ask you now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver your Church from every evil, to teach it to love you perfectly, and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide as branches of the Vine, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN****“I Will Rise”**

**Verse 1** There's a peace I've come to know  
 Though my heart and flesh may fail  
 There's an anchor for my soul  
 I can say it is well

**Pre-Chorus** Jesus has overcome  
 And the grave is overwhelmed  
 The victory is won  
 He is risen from the dead

**Chorus** (And) I will rise when He calls my name  
 No more sorrow no more pain  
 I will rise on eagle's wings  
 Before my God fall on my knees  
 And rise I will rise (I will rise)

**Verse 2**     There's a day that's drawing near  
When this darkness breaks to light  
And the shadows disappear  
And my faith shall be my eyes **(Pre-Chorus & Chorus)**

**Bridge**     And I hear the voice of many angels sing  
Worthy is the Lamb  
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart  
Worthy is the Lamb  
**(REPEAT)**

**Chorus**

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