

Liturgy of the Word: Rite Two

(A Service of Ante-Communion)



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



Rite II

Prelude

THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Words

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

Song of Praise

Gloria

Hymn S280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

(The people remain standing)

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

(In unison) **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.**

First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

(to be read responsively by whole verse)

24 My praise is of him in the great
assembly; I will perform my vows in
the presence of those who worship
him.

25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek he LORD shall
praise him: "May your heart live
for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall
remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.

**27 For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations.**

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

all who go down to the dust fall
before him.

**29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD'S
for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to
a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "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 the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Rev. Guimond Pierre Louis

The 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

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

A brief silence.

Leader: Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Creating God, you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration and empower us to be wise stewards of all that you've entrusted to us. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of all, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of wisdom, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your loving kindness to national, state, and local leaders of people, holding before you our President Joe and Governor Ralph. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress, Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially...**Carol, Naomi, Barbara, Joe, Ben and family, Sam, Shelby, Brian, Carolyn, Brason, Bob, Liz, Bill, Desiree, Karen, David, Stephanie, Jack, Bruce, Bob.** Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Loving God, you overflow with grace upon grace. We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays, especially... **Suzanne Hood, Anna Hemmer, Sarah Bird, Barbara Harris, Courtney Martin.** and anniversaries especially... **Joe and Beverly Rouge, Chad Steffey and Sheehan Connors-Steffey.** Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Redeeming God, In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (especially...) and for those who have given their lives in service to our country, especially ...**Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Pantos.** Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Concluding Collect:

Celebrant: In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude

May 2, 2021 Announcements & Events

Please go to weekly E-news for links and more information.

Sunday Coffee Hour today at 11 AM

Sundays at Noon Adult Forum –*Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber starts continues today with Chapters 2-6. She invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she

calls, " a religious but not-so-spiritual life".

8 AM Thursday Adult Forum- Join our video-discussion "Surprised by the God of Hope". What it means for Christians to have hope: What are we hoping for? Does Jesus' resurrection have meaning for us, right here and now?

Thursday Evening at 7 PM - Creation Book discussion - *Worlds of Wonder: in Praise of Fireflies* Continues with essays: Narwhal, Axolotl, Dancing Frog. Join any time.

Church Refresh day – May 8th 9 AM – 12 PM - Help us transform our sanctuary for indoor worship with live streaming. We'll move chairs, organize the electronics, put away seasonal decor and get ready to host socially distanced indoor worship later this spring. Please let Tom Keithly know you can come and help. Masks required.

Feeling creative and crafty? We also need to refresh our bulletin boards. Come by and start getting inspired on the 8th! Please let Tom Keithly know you can come and help. Masks required.

The office will be closed May 6th – May 10th. For Pastoral care please contact Rev. Susan or Rev. G. directly.

The Patriot Pantry hosted by Arise Campus Ministries at GMU is seeking our help. See the e-news with a link to their Amazon Wish List (the only way to donate at this time).

Our next Outdoor Service will be on May 23rd at 10 AM.

****For all outdoor services, masks and social distancing are required (6' between family groups). Please bring your own chairs. * Weather permitting.***