

Sunday 28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading 1: **Acts 8: 26 - end**

Gospel: **John 15: 1 – 8**

Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

Proclamation:

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He
is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And
also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let
us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer.

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us a new and
living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in Spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm: 22: 25 - 31

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfil my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and
turn to the LORD, and all the families of the
nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for
dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules
over the nations.

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all
who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity

will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Song: (*click link*) Come now is the time to Worship

<https://youtu.be/NPWq8eM4lu8>

Invitation to Confession: Christ our Passover lamb

has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Confession:

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness:

I confess to you,

I confess with my whole heart

my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,

my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;

the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone.

O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse us from our sins

and restore us in His image

to the praise and glory of His name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed be the Lord for he has heard the voice of our prayer; Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: Acts 8: 26 – end

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in

his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so
he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 15: 1 – 8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/PFEZWPGudFw>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Creed

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for God's grace.
Lord receive our praise,
and hear our prayer.

Lord God, through your grace we are your people:
Through your son you have redeemed us; In your
Spirit you have made us your own.

We pray for..... (the Church in the world)
Make our hearts respond to your love.
Lord receive our praise,
and hear our prayer.

We pray for.....(society, the local community)
Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.
Lord receive our praise,
and hear our prayer.

We pray for.....(people in need)
Make our wills eager to obey, and hands ready to heal.
Lord receive our praise,
and hear our prayer.

We give thanks for.....
Make our voices one with all your people
In heaven and on earth. Lord receive our
praise,
and hear our prayer.

Lord of life,

hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind to
serve you with joy forever.
Amen.

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your only son
our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect:

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your
love for the world and the wonder of your
risen life: give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Lord's Prayer:

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
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

Song: *(click link) In Christ Alone*

<https://youtu.be/ouGuG97I2RY>

Blessing:

May God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us to walk with Him in his risen life.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever. Amen.

As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.