



Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne, VT  
5171 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VT 05482  
[office@trinityshelburne.org](mailto:office@trinityshelburne.org) 802-985-2269  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop  
The Rev. Dr. Frederick Moser, Rector  
Michael Hartigan, Parish Musician

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B**  
**April 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist - Hybrid**

*Thank you for worshiping with us this morning! We are glad you are here. Please keep your microphone muted for most of the service if you are online. If you are reading a lesson, leading the prayers, or adding an intercession or thanksgiving aloud during the prayers, please unmute yourself; then please re-mute.*

*Music is in this bulletin, and may be taken from The Hymnal 1982; Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP); Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS II); Voices Found (VF); and My Heart Sings Out (MHSO).*

**Hymn**

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

Hymnal 296

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. \_\_\_\_\_  
We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. \_\_\_\_\_  
The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. \_\_\_\_\_  
A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows \_\_\_\_\_

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; \_\_\_\_\_  
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life \_\_\_\_\_  
The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. \_\_\_\_\_

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. —  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. — Al - le -  
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. —  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: —

lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

*The Presider says, and the people respond*

*Alleluia. Christ is risen.*  
*People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

*The Easter Canticle is sung*

*Christ our Passover [Pascha nostrum]*

WLP 880

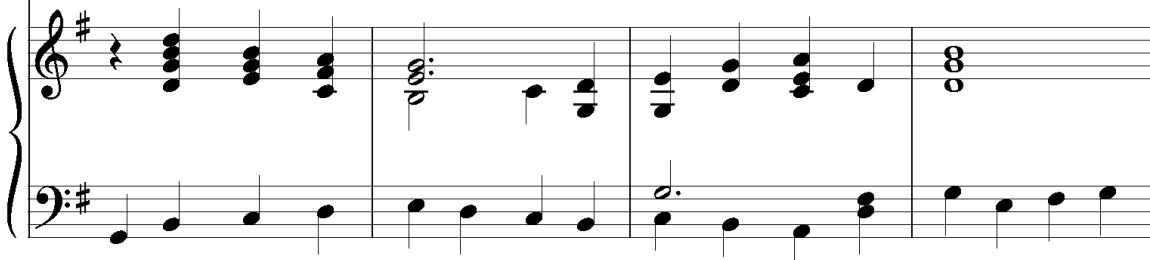
*Descant*



3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:



1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain;  
3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:



though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in



There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for -  
death has no more do - min - ion o - ver him; Through  
though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in



Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

sak - ing sin, we share the bread of truth. Al -  
 him - we die to sin and live to God. Al -  
 Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## Collect of the Day

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* 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.*

## First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Acts

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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 22:24-30** *Deus, Deus meus*

*All say*

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 the 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

*Reader:* A Reading from the First Letter of John

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.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

### **Sequence Hymn**

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

Hymnal 487



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

## Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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."



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

## **Reflections on Our Baptismal Covenant**

Jillian Knight, Georgia Knight

### **Nicene Creed**

*All say*

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**

*Led by Cathy Borow-Weiner*

*The intercessor offers prayers for the Church, its members, and its mission; the Nation and all in authority; the welfare of the world; concerns of the community; those who suffer or are in any trouble; and the departed.*

*A brief silence is kept between each prayer. Those online may "unmute" to add their own petitions and thanksgivings, along with those in the church, after each bidding.*

*The Intercessor begins*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Shannon, our Priest Fred; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those we now name...

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed; pray for those who have died, especially those we now name....

*Silence*

I invite your additional petitions and thanksgivings at this time...

*Members of the congregation may add petitions or thanksgivings*

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Presider adds this Concluding Collect*

God of deep soil and luxuriant 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; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. **Amen.** *(from Prayers for an Inclusive Church, by Steven Shakespeare.)*

## **The Peace**

*Those online may unmute briefly to offer their response along with those in the church.*

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
People And also with you.

## Holy Communion

*The Presider says*

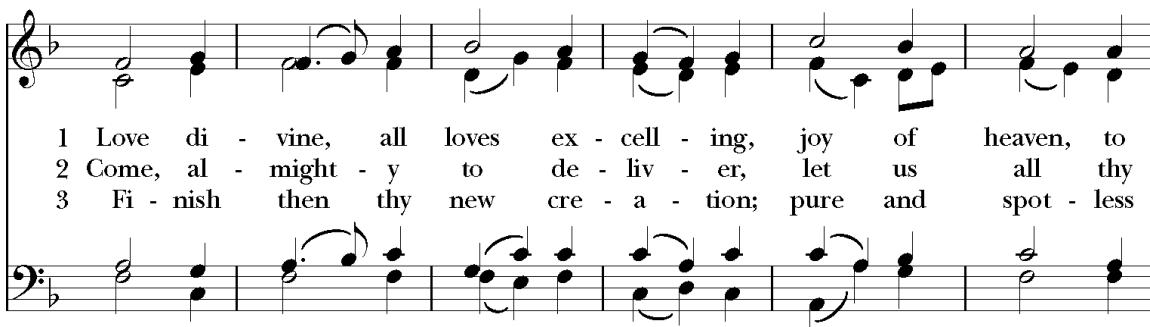
Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*

## Offertory Hymn

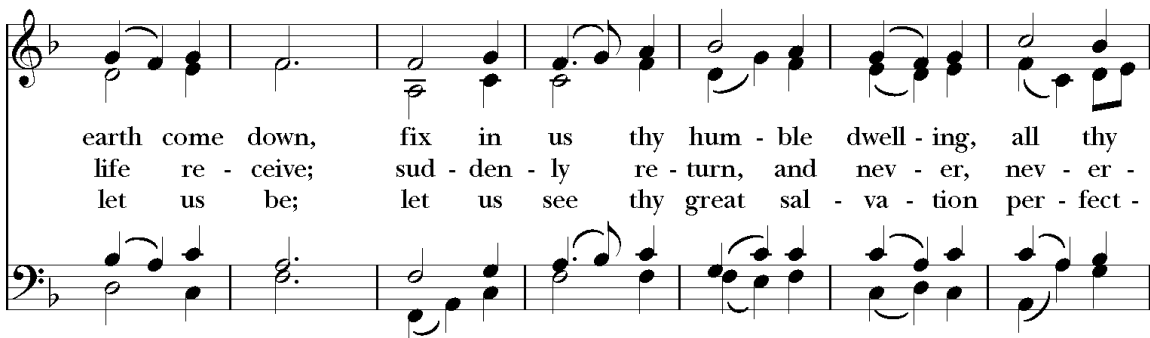
*Please continue to support our parish and ministries by leaving your regular offering in one of the Offering plates, mailing it to our parish office, or giving electronically through the Diocesan Giving Link.*

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 657



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.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.  
*Presider*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

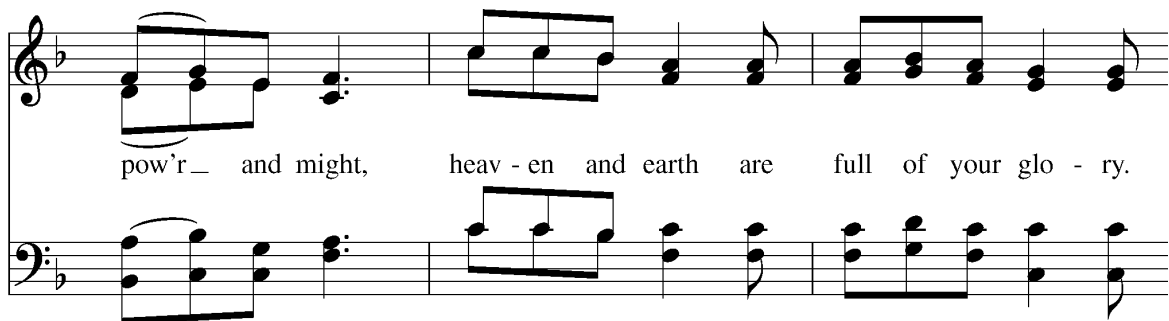
But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

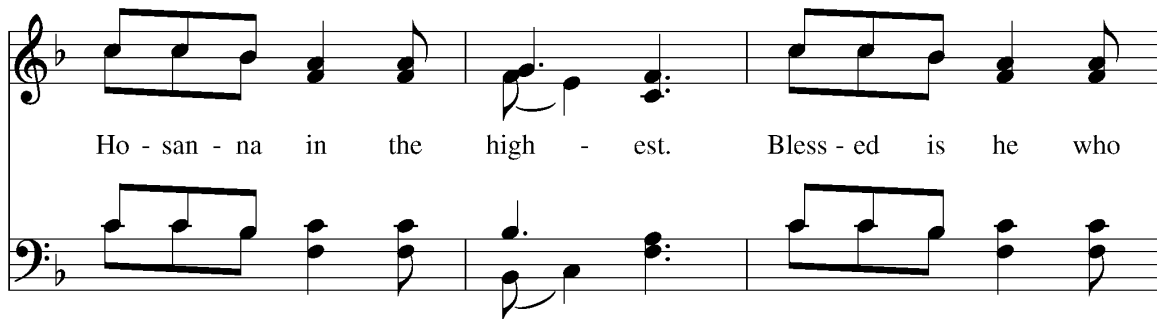
### *Sanctus*

LEVAS II 256

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with the word "Ho" on a half note, followed by a dash and "ly," on a half note. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano dynamic marking and features a series of chords and moving lines. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of" are written below the vocal line.



pow'r\_ and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Presider says*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

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.

**Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*Response* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*The Presider invites the people to Communion*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Ministration of Communion

The Body and Blood of Christ keep you in everlasting life.

*During the hymn Communion is administered to those in the sanctuary, while those online reverently consume the sacrament their homes.*

## Communion Hymn

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Hymnal 304

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

## Postcommunion Prayer

*The Presider says*

Let us pray.

*The Presider and People pray*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Postcommunion Hymn

Come away to the skies

Hymnal 213, stanzas 1-4

*Unison or harmony*

The musical score is written for unison or harmony in a 4-part setting. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the first five lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next five lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords and rests. There are some decorative elements like a dashed line under a note in the second system and a bracket under a group of notes in the second system.

1 Come a - way to the skies, my be - lov - ed, a - rise and re -  
2 Now with sing - ing and praise, let us spend all the days, by our  
3 For the glo - ry we were first cre - a - ted to share, both the  
4 We with thanks do ap - prove the de - sign of that love which hath  
\*5 Hal - le - lu - jah we sing, to our Fa - ther and King, and his

1 joice in the day thou wast born; — on this fes - ti - val day,  
2 hea - ven - ly Fa - ther be - stowed, — while his grace we re - ceive  
3 na - ture and king - dom di - vine! — Now cre - a - ted a - gain  
4 joined us to Je - sus' — Name; — so u - ni - ted in heart,  
5 rap - tu - rous prais - es, re - peat: — to the Lamb that was slain,

1 come ex - ult - ing a - way, and with sing - ing to Zi - on re - turn. —  
 2 from his boun - ty, and live to the hon - or and glo - ry of God. —  
 3 that our lives may re - main, through-out time and e - ter - ni - ty thine. —  
 4 let us nev - er - more part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb. —  
 5 hal - le - lu - jah a - gain, sing, all heav - en, and fall at his feet. —

## Blessing

*The priest pronounces God's blessing; the people respond, "Amen."*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; and the blessing of God Almighty: Holy eternal Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, be among you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## Dismissal

*Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Postlude

## A Note on Today's Readings

### *The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year B*

Welcome to our parish. On the final Sundays of Easter, our attention is directed to the results in our lives of Jesus' dying and rising: the results of Baptism and Eucharist. The Gospel reading today describes our life in Christ. That life is characterized by our love for Jesus as the ground of our faithfulness. We are as intimately bound up in the life of the risen Jesus as the branches of a plant, drawing our new life directly from him.

Like a vine growing new branches, the early Church began to spread beyond Jerusalem almost immediately, bound together in Christ's love and led by the Spirit. In today's reading from Acts, Philip, one of the seven ordained with Stephen, preaches the Gospel to an official of the Queen of Ethiopia. This preaching was prompted by the official's reading of the "Suffering Servant" passage from Isaiah (52:13-53:12). The Ethiopian is converted and baptized on the spot.

Today's reading from First John carries on the author's theme of our share in God's self-giving love (*agape*). We are to reflect in our own living and ministry that same love which was manifested to us in Jesus' dying and rising. This is the life he shares with us.

We, the People of God, gather in Eucharist to remember and share the story of God's love for us. Our actions in Eucharist are a liturgical expression of self-giving love toward God and others. As we receive Holy Communion, God implants in us Jesus' own life and equips us to extend the divine love to all people in concrete actions of ministry and proclamation.

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**HAPPY FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER!**