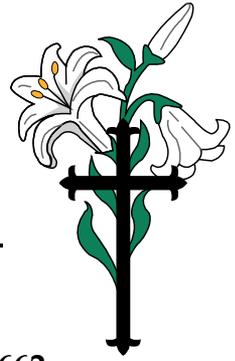


# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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## Prelude

Entrance Hymn *Christ is the King*

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1. *Christ is the King!* O friends, rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
let the world know he is your choice.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2. *Oh magnify the Lord, and raise*  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. *They with a faith forever new*  
followed the King, and round him drew  
thousands of faithful servants true.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. *O Christian women, Christian men,*  
all the world over, seek again  
the way disciples followed then.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. *Christ through all ages is the same:*  
place the same hope in his great name,  
with the same faith his word proclaim.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

6. *Let love's unconquerable might*  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

7. So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole church at last be one.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

### *Easter Greeting*

*P: Christ is risen!*

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Amen.**

*P: The grace of our victorious and risen Lord, the love our God  
who raised him and the communion of the Holy Spirit which  
he gives to us be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

### *Prayer of the Day*

*P: The Lord be with you*

**C: And also with you**

*P: Let us pray:*

**C: Heavenly Father, You sent your son to heal the weak  
and save the sinner and so we come this morning  
seeking to be strengthened and saved. Stir our hearts to  
be encouraged, our minds to know understanding, our  
hands to be motivated and our souls to find the  
contentment and hope of promise of new life with you  
in the coming day of Resurrection. In Jesus name we  
pray. Amen.**

### *First Lesson*

*Acts 8:26-40*

#### **Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch**

**T**hen an angel of the Lord said to Philip, a disciple of Jesus who was still living in Jerusalem with the other disciples, "Get up at high noon and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

So, Philip got up and headed down that rather dangerous road under the hot sun. What Philip did not know was that a foreigner,

an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was also travelling on that road that day. The eunuch was the Queen's Treasurer and managed all of her substantial wealth. The eunuch had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. Because it was noon, the eunuch has taken a break from travelling and was sitting in his chariot 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?"

*The eunuch* 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.*" [Isaiah 53:7-8]

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.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!*

*Psalm*

*Psalm 4*

*You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

**For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.**

*From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.*

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.*

**For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.**

*To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.*

**Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.**

## *Second Lesson*

*1 John 4:7-21*

### **God Abides in those who Love**

**B**eloved, 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.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord!* **C: Thanks be to God!**

## *Verse*

*P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!*

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

*P: Spread the Good News over all the earth!*

**C: Jesus has died and is risen!**

*P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!*

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

## *Gospel Acclamation*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

## *Gospel*

*Mark 2:13-22*

**A**nd Jesus went to the shore, again. Still, large crowds kept going there to be with him. So, he taught them.

He also took a walk and as he was walking along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, working in his tax office. Jesus stuck his head in and said, "Follow me!"

And Levi got up and followed Jesus.

Later that evening, Jesus and his disciples went to Levi's home – Jesus still had quite a few followers tagging along. There, they all sat around the Levi's table together with many other tax collectors and sinful people.

When the scribes of the Pharisees saw Jesus eat with sinful people and tax collectors, they said to Jesus' disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinful people?"

Having heard them, Jesus said to them, "No one who is getting stronger needs a Healer. It's only those with weakness who do. I have not come to call righteous people, but sinful people."

Everyone knew that the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees were fasting, not for health, but for religious reasons.

So, the folks around the table asked Jesus, "Why is it that the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

Jesus said to them, "The bridal party does not fast when the Groom is with them in the reception hall, do they? As long as the Groom is there, no one fasts. But, there may come a day when the Groom will be lead away from them. Then they will fast."

Then, going back to the issue the scribes of the Pharisees had raised earlier, Jesus went on to say, "No one sews a piece of unshrunk patch onto an old piece of clothes, do they? Because if they do, the patch shrinks and pulls at what it is sown and a worse mess can be on the garment! Similarly, no one pours newly made wine into old wineskins, do they? Because if they do, the wine will burst out of the wineskins, ruining both the wine and the wineskins!"

*P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!*

## *Sermon*

## *Hymn of the Day*

*[tune: Pleading Savior]*

*Thou true Vine, that heals the nations,  
Tree of life, thy branches we.*

**They who leave thee fade and wither,  
None bear fruit except in thee.**

*Cleanse us, make us sane and simple,  
Till we merge our lives in thine,*

**Gain ourselves in thee, the Vintage,  
Give ourselves through thee, the Vine.**

*Nothing can we do without thee;  
On thy life depends each one.  
If we keep thy words and love thee,  
All we ask for shall be done.  
May we, loving one another,  
Radiant in thy light abide;  
So through us, made fruitful by thee,  
Shall our God be glorified.*

## *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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

## Offering & Offertory

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*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
joyfully your tribute bring.*

**Ransomed, healed, restored,  
forgiven,  
evermore God's praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praises everlasting ring!**

*God be praised, for grace and favor  
to our forebears in distress.*

**God be praised, the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious is God's faithfulness!**

*Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone;*

**but, as mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the great Eternal One!**

*Angels sing in adoration,  
in God's presence, face to face.*

**Sun and moon and all creation,  
all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

## Offertory Prayer

*P: Let us Pray*

**C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

## Benediction & Dismissal

### Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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3830 Gomer St. • Yorktown Heights, NY • 10598 • 914.245.5737 • grace-lutheran-church.com