

# **Church of the Advent**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday May 2, 2021

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen  
**People The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia**

The Presider says to the people

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

All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,  
and God's good will unfaithfully be to all people given.  
We bless, we worship you, we raise for your great glory thanks and praise,  
O God, Almighty Father.

O Lamb of God, Lord Jesus Christ, whom God the Father gave us,  
who for the world was sacrificed upon the cross to save us;  
and, as you sit at God's right hand and we for judgment there must stand,  
have mercy, Lord, upon us.

You only are the Holy One, who came for our salvation,  
and only you are God's true Son, who was before creation.  
You only, Christ, as Lord we own and, with the Spirit,  
you alone share in the Father's glory.

### Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord 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.*

## The Lessons

### First Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

Lector                      A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

Lector                      The Word of the Lord  
**People                      Thanks be to God**

**We beheld him despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.**

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.  
To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.  
My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

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.

Lector            The Word of the Lord  
**People**            **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn

No Longer Settled

No longer settled or sure of our ways we leave ourselves open, in moments of grace, to fresh ways of seeing—scales fall from our eyes and in our new visions, the Spirit shall rise. Rise on our wings, awake to new birth, breathe in our bodies, and free all the earth.

Claiming our passion, embracing our rage strengthens our love to refashion this age, unleashes the power to challenge our lies and in righteous anger, the Spirit shall rise.

(Refrain)

Voices long silenced and mem'ries denied call out for healing, for justice and pride. Our hearts hear the anguish of each sacred cry and in our compassion, the Spirit shall rise.

(Refrain)

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Presider            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.”

Presider            The Gospel of the Lord  
**People            Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Oden

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.

## The Prayers of the People

Presider: As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, abiding in the Spirit of love, we bring our prayers to God: Eternal Loving One, accept the wishes of our hearts as we pray faithfully, saying: For God is love; and perfect love casts out all fear.

Litanist: Gracious One, you have called us to abide in your life and to bear witness to Christ the lamb: Grant that the Church may reveal your love through Jesus, that we might live in him and bear good fruit.

For God is love;

**People and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Light of the Word, dominion belongs to you, for you rule over the nations: Raise up for your Church bold witnesses like Philip who will testify to the rich and powerful about God's good news which is perfected in love, so that peace may abound in our time.

For God is love;

**People and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Attentive Vinegrower, you tend the branches and fruit of your vine extending to the ends of the earth: Let your loving attention reach out to all people who live in suffering and threatening conditions, that they may be restored to life and fruitfulness.

For God is love;

**People**            **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God: Inspire all in our community to seek to expand the fruits of compassion and care so that the poor shall eat and be satisfied and that all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.  
For God is love;

**People**            **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

You have first loved us and called us to love our neighbor as ourselves: Hear our prayers for all for whom we intercede, especially \_\_\_\_.  
Accept our grateful thanks for your abundance in our lives, especially for \_\_\_\_.  
Gather into your banquet all who have died, may their hearts live forever! We remember especially \_\_\_\_.  
For God is love;

**People**            **and perfect love casts out all fear.**

Presider:            You have planted us in the nurturing ground of your steadfast love, O God, and grafted us into the life of your resurrected Son, Jesus: Keep us evermore abiding within your Spirit of love, that we may bear the fruit of reconciliation for all that is and is to come, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

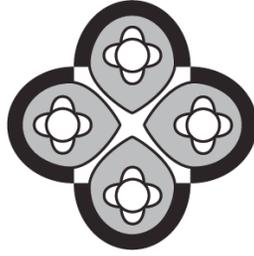
Presider            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**            **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Offertory

Brianna Kelly



## The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where 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:

*Presider and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.

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

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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion Anthem

## O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded!

O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn; O kingly head surrounded with mocking crown of thorn; what sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower? O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heav'n adore!

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? Oh, make me thine forever! and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never, outlive my love for thee.

My days are few, O fail not, with thine immortal power, to hold me that I quail not in death's most fearful hour; that I may fight befriended, and see in my last strife to me thine arms extended upon the cross of life.

## After Communion,

### Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Blessing

God is love, and perfect love casts out fear. Fear not, and love one another, because love is from God. Abide in Christ as Christ abides in you, and bear much fruit as his beloved disciples. By this you know that you abide in God and God abides in you, because God has given you the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of our loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and abide in you, now and for ever. Amen.

*Presider*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia

**People**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**