

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Now We Know
May 14 & 15, 2022
5:00 & 8:00

AS WE GATHER

Now we know the end of the story. In John's vision in the Revelation, heaven will be like an eternal wedding feast. All of us in the Church have been made presentable by Christ, the Bridegroom. Unlike the disciples, who in today's Gospel still had to experience their Lord's absence from Good Friday through Easter morning, we can be confident that no one can take our joy from us. Now we know that because He has paid the price on the cross, the Bridegroom will freely make all things new. In place of torrents of tears will be the spring of the water of life. When we receive His body and blood in the Sacrament, it is a foretaste of the feast to come, and we cannot wait to enjoy the rest of the eternal celebration!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:4-5 ESV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PROCESSIONAL #578 "Thy Strong Word"

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

1 continued

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives, our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

(Rise)

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

INVOCATION & EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

2

Pastor: God's grace knows no bounds! Through the sacrifice of His Son, the Bridegroom of the Church, He makes us His holy bride. Anticipating the heavenly wedding feast, let us seek God's grace now and call on Him for forgiveness and mercy.

People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, for we cannot help ourselves. Forgive us all that we have done in the past, give us grace in this present time, and lead us to serve you and love one another in the future and on into the eternity you have promised.

Pastor: Jesus promised the disciples, "Your sorrow will turn into joy," and He promises "the spring of the water of life without payment." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you make the minds of your faithful to be of one will.

People: Grant that we may love what you have commanded and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Acts 11:1-18* (God convinces Peter that Gentiles may be baptized into the one Church.) Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³ "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Revelation 21:1-7* (John sees a vision of the new Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her husband, coming from heaven.) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place^[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:12-22* (Jesus prepares the Twelve for His absence for "a little while.")

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁶ "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful,

but your sorrow will turn into joy.²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Stanzas 1-5

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

SERMON "The Spirit Who Guides Into Truth" John 16:12-22

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Stanzas 6-8

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

(Rise)

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

5:00 & 8:00 APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

10:30 RITE OF CONFIRMATION

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to the God and Father of Jesus Christ, who has promised to hear our prayers.

Brief silence for personal intercessions

Pastor: Lord of heaven and earth, in the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus, you have given the promise of our own resurrection.

People: As we await the Last Day, calm our hearts, strengthen our faith, and grant us patience and perseverance.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have fashioned the Church as a heavenly Bride for your risen Son. Grant her your Spirit, that she may always listen to His voice.

People: Help us to follow where He leads and declare His message of salvation to others.

Pastor: Gracious God, lead your people in your steadfast love, and guide them to live in your grace day by day.

People: Bless our families, be the companion of those who live alone, and make all our homes places of harmony, forgiveness and grace.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son declared that all those who confess faith in Him before the world, that He will confess them before His Father in heaven.

People: Bless our young people being confirmed in the faith to make their good confession with sincerity of heart and the desire to walk with Jesus all their days.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, you hold all people accountable for the responsibilities you have given them. O Lord, bless our president, our governor, the Congress and legislature, and all judges and magistrates. Guide them to serve according to your will and for the common good of all.

People: Raise up those with heroic virtue who will defend our liberty. Protect those who defend us in the armed forces, even as we pray for peace among the nations.

Pastor: O Alpha and Omega, you pledge to bring all things to their perfect consummation. You will bring heaven to earth and banish sorrow, sin and death. Sustain those who have requested our prayers, Brian, Steve, Dorothy, Norma, Vern, Brian, Amy, Cathy, Jim, Vern, Mike, Elaine, Dorothy, Cindy, Don, Shirley, Richard, Helga, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Sarah, Debbie, Steve, Mary, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah.

People: By the comfort of your Holy Word, increase their faith and see them through their trials and bring them restoration and peace.

Pastor: Giver of every good and perfect gift, we join with Jerry and Audrey in giving thanks for all your blessings. We also rejoice with Doug and Melissa celebrating their 25th anniversary and Neil and Debbie who have been blessed with 35 years of marriage.

People: Make us mindful of all the gifts and blessings you have given and help us be thankful.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, you have given us both bread for the body and Christ, the bread of life. Prepare us now to receive with faith and thanksgiving His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin.

People: Unite us that we may believe and confess one faith, and bring us to that day when we shall be one people together at the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we wait for the second coming of your resurrected Son. Grant us patience as we long to see Him and see all things restored to perfection.

People: Give us patience in these days and fill us with joy in knowing that Christ is with us day by day.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #822 "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"

Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring
Our songs of adoration.

To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,
Whose hand sustains creation.

Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.

He bought His Church with His own blood,
He cleansed her in that blessed flood,
And as His bride selected.

Holy, holy, Is our union And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.

The saving faith in us He wrought And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us His chosen nation.

Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal; There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be His name forever!

With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises evermore
For all His grace and favor!

Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory!

HYMN #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow’r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood.

People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN #861 “Christ Be My Leader”

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen

Lectors

Marc Stefanic, Bob Reynolds, Jim Laux

Director of Parish Music

Michelle Prince

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