

The Holy Eucharist — Easter 5B — 28 April, 2024

***Please place a vase of flowers or a colorful plant near you during the service!*

Prelude

Celebrant Alleluia. ✠ Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

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.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

The Song of Praise

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you,
for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you,
seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Lector 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.

After the reading

Lector

People

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 22:25-30

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now
and will be forever. Amen.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Celebrant

✠ 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 vine-grower. 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."

After the reading

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily — group discussion for 10-15 min.

Song of Praise

The Prayers

Lector In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

People

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Lector For this community, the nation, and the world;

People

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Lector For the just and proper use of your creation;
People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Lector For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Lector For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, remembering especially: Brigitte, Jesse, Elahe, Eden, Elsie, Chris, Jackie, Pam, Susie, Shirley, Christian, Ellen, the people of Israel and Gaza, all those living in anxiety or fear — please include those in your own prayers.

Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**

Lector We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life — please include those in your own prayers.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Lector We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, remembering especially: all victims of war and violence — please include those in your own prayers.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**

Lector I invite you to offer up your own prayers of thanksgiving or intercession.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Song of Praise

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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:

All *S-130 Schubert*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant

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:

All

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

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.

All

**✠ 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.

All

AMEN.

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A silence is kept

The Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Invitation

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Be what you see. Receive what you are.

Communion Hymn

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members
of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant

Go forth into the world in peace:
Be of good courage;
Render to no one evil for evil,
Hold fast to that which is good;
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak,
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit;

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude