May 7, 2023

Holy Eucharist The Fifth Sunday after Easter

Zoom link: https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/8588794677?pwd=ei94 MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOO3I2Zzo9

> Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777 Passcode: 782611

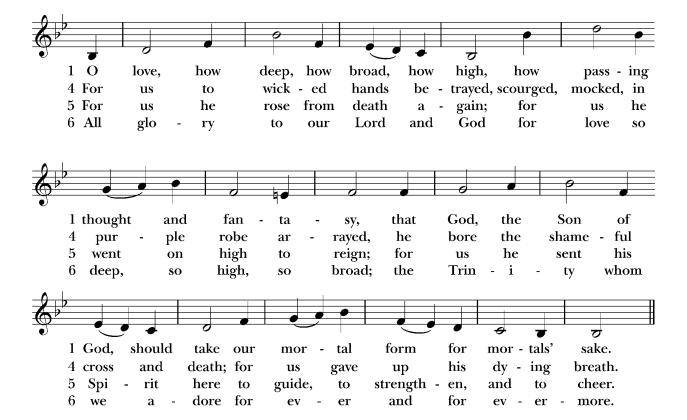
Year A

Prelude

Opening hymn

O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Hymnal 448



Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Presider begins

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

Awesome God



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 people are seated.

First Reading Acts 7:55-60

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; * deliver me in your righteousness. ²Incline your ear to me; * make haste to deliver me. ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; * for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, * for you are my tower of strength. ⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, * for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth. 15My times are in your hand; * rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. ¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your lovingkindness save me.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner,"

8and

"A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

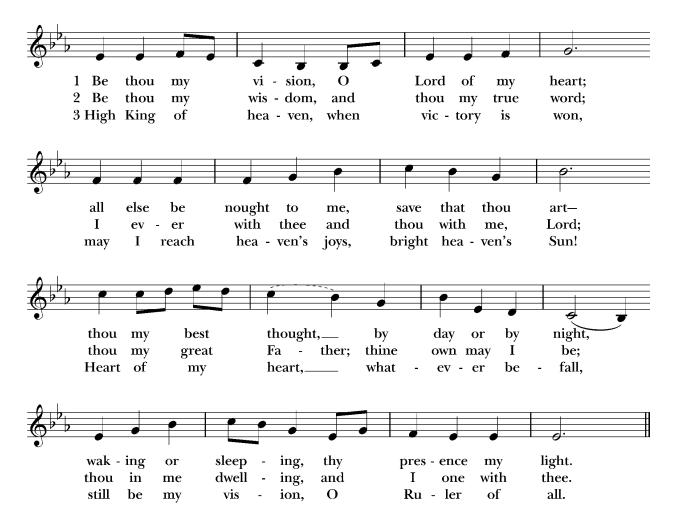
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God**.

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Be thou my vision

Hymnal 488



Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, O Christ.

[Jesus told his disciples,] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated.

Sermon Fr. Bill

All then stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of 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, 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.

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Sisters and brothers, children of God, once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Let us pray to our good God, saying, "Make your face to shine upon us, and in your loving-kindness save us."

Intercessor In you, O Lord, does your Church take refuge. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to do great works in Jesus' name. We pray for all the people of St Barnabas in their many ministries, and on those on the St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer. May your Church glorify you in all our doings. Make your face to shine upon us, **And in your loving-kindness save us.**

Silence is kept.

Ancient of Days, rescue the innocent from the hands of those who persecute them. Hold in your strong hands the oppressed and the abused. Make your face to shine upon us, **And in your loving-kindness save us.**

Silence is kept.

God, our strong rock, give us eyes to see your hand at work in our world. Lead us and guide us that we may be good stewards of your creation. Make your face to shine upon us, **And in your loving-kindness save us.**

Silence is kept.

Tower of Strength, assure those who are unemployed or living in poverty that they are precious in your sight. Make your face to shine upon us, **And in your loving-kindness save us.**

Silence is kept.

O Lord, we rejoice today, and praise you for [_____and] every blessing. Make your face to shine upon us, **And in your loving-kindness save us.**

Merciful God, incline your ear to those in need of deliverance. Calm the troubled hearts of the suffering and the sorrowful, of the sick and the anxiety-plagued [especially]. Make your face to shine upon us, And in your loving-kindness save us.
God of truth, we commend into your hands the dying and the dead [especially]. We rejoice in Jesus' promise that he has prepared for us a place in your eternal home. Make your face to shine upon us, And in your loving-kindness save us.
Silence is kept.
Presider For what other people or situations shall we pray today?
Gracious God, your Son Jesus endured mockery, pain, and death in order to reveal to us your power

Gracious God, your Son Jesus endured mockery, pain, and death in order to reveal to us your power that overcomes evil with love, and brings life out of death; guide and guard us in our earthly pilgrimage, that we may gladly share in his passion and be raised with him into your glory, who with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, forever and ever. **Amen**.

A Minister then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God + have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The people are then seated.

Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries

Those who will be celebrating their birthday or anniversary in May are invited to the front of the church.

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your Jerry, Nancy, Larry, Julie... as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon all couples. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen**.

All stand as they are able

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People are then seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Hymn Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people remain standing as they are able.

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.

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:



The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit + upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified + by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St Barnabas, St Stephen, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia! We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. Alleluia!

Here is a place where we are all welcome.

Here is a place where there are no walls dividing us.

Here is a place where Christ says to each of us,

Take...Eat...Drink...and Remember...all of you!

Christ welcomes all of us, because we are all guests, and because we all need this food.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Remaining seated, the following is sung after the table has been cleared.

Communion Hymn

Only believe





Chorus Book 151

After the hymn, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dismissal and Blessing

A Priest says

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother loves her children.

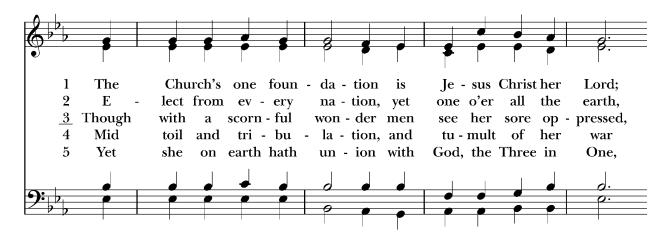
My sisters and my brothers, be at peace; follow the good road, in the name of + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Concluding Hymn

The church's one foundation

Hymnal 525





Minister My sisters and my brothers, go now in joy and peace, to love and serve our risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude



This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA) and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

May 7 The Church in Wales

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

May 7 Cathedral Church of St Paul, Detroit; Jesus of Nazareth, San Francisco, Dominican Republic

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: David, Marion, Jan V, Joseph **and our continuing prayers for:** Bob, Carlos, Robert, Selenah

Upcoming Commemorations

May 7 Harriet Starr Cannon: Religious, 1896

- 8 Julian of Norwich, Mystic and Theologian, c.1417
- 9 Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop and Theologian, 389
- 10 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, Prophetic Witness, 1760
- Johann Arndt and Jacob Boehme, Mystics, 1621 and 1624
- 13 Frances Perkins, Social Reformer, 1965

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. *Federal SNAP benefits given to needy families have ended, and food pantries are stressed to their maximum.*

The most recent most-needed items are: baked beans, coffee, hamburger (or other) helper, spaghetti sauce, cereal, 64-oz fruit juices, crackers, and laundry soap. If you bring food directly to FIA, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to Faith In Action, with "St Barnabas" on the memo line. The Food and CHS Student Gift Cards In-Gathering is May 21, 2023. Please contribute as generously as you can.



Easter 5A May 7, 2023

Acts 7:55-60

Today's passage from the Acts of the Apostles opens with Stephen, who was previously said to have an angelic or transfigured face (Acts 6:15), gazing into heaven and having a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He voiced his vision to those around him. Stephen was steadfast in his faith

in Jesus as the Righteous One. Stephen had done great wonders and signs among the people, and in his steadfastness, he found himself in opposition to the religious establishment who might have felt like they were playing a game of whack-a-mole with the apostles.

Much as later Christians defined heresies and what was orthodox and what was not, the Sanhedrin was struggling with this group of Jewish heretics. Christians did not exist yet. Gamaliel, a Pharisee on the council, advised leaving the apostles alone. If they are not of God, he said, their preaching will run its course and die out. If they are of God, perhaps the council should be taking notice (Acts 5:34-39). But tensions were clearly running high, and Stephen was killed. He is considered to be the first Christian martyr. His last words echo those of Jesus' words during his passion (Luke 23:34, 46). He followed Jesus to the end of his life.

- What does it mean to you to be faithful to your beliefs? How might you see those whose beliefs differ from yours as fellow children of God?
- How can this passage inform your own actions when you become angry when someone challenges your core beliefs? What are some alternatives to the immediate reaction that is sparked in you?

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The first five verses of Psalm 31 are one of the psalm options for Compline. Compline is the last service of the daily office and one intended for quiet reflection on the day and preparation for the night of rest. The psalmist is expressing trust in God – trust that God will be a safe refuge, a strong rock, a castle, and protection that one can hide behind in hard moments. The psalmist places themselves in the hands of God and asks that God rescue them from the hands of their enemies. Jesus and Stephen's words echo verse 5 about commending one's spirit to God. Verse 16, in which the psalmist exhorts God, "Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me," reprises the scene in Numbers in which Aaron delivers a blessing to the Israelites during the Exodus. He says, "The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you." Here, the psalmist is asking for God's blessing and saving grace.

- Are there times in your life when it is easier or harder to trust God? What are those moments?
- When might you want to pray the words of this psalm? How would they be meaningful in that situation?

1 Peter 2:2-10

Just as babies grow drinking milk, Peter said that new Christians will grow by consuming the Word of God. When this was written, however, there was no agreed-upon definition of the Bible as we know it today. Certainly not the Second Testament. Part of consuming the Word of God in the time of Peter most certainly meant hearing it. Many people were not literate and would not have had access to the written word, even if they were. Today, we have the Bible with both Testaments included.

And, as we are living stones whom God uses to build, part of our responsibility as Christians is to be mindful of what we are reading and the context of these words. Peter was likely writing to Jewish and newish Christians, which might explain the borrowing of phrases from First Testament writings (Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 28:16, 43:20-21, and Psalm 118:22). Peter is making the case that followers of Jesus also belong to God because of the saving work that Jesus did. He was writing when there was not a Christian church on every corner. He is encouraging new Christians, using language previously used

to refer to Israelites, to tell them they are worthy and do belong to God, even when it was not clear where they fit in society.

- How have you grown as a Christian by consuming "spiritual milk"? Have your understandings evolved or changed over time or not?
- How could this text be misused?

John 14:1-14

Before Christians were called Christians, they were known as "followers of the Way." The Acts of the Apostles is filled with references to those belonging to or knowing the Way, as in Acts 9:2 and 18:25-26. Instead of God being a long way off, Jesus told his disciples that if you know him, you know God. Jesus is Emmanuel, God is with us. But he is also foreshadowing his death for his disciples and telling them it is not the end. Jesus tells them that they know the way to the place he is going. Ever-practical Thomas says, "Hang on a minute, Jesus, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" This is the same Thomas who would later say to his fellow disciples that he would not believe in the resurrected Jesus unless he saw and touched Jesus' wounds.

It is notable that Jesus doesn't ignore Thomas. Jesus doesn't gloss over Thomas' question. Jesus doesn't appear to answer him condescendingly. He tells Thomas and all the disciples present, "I am the way and the truth and the life." Jesus is connecting himself again to God by describing himself with an "I AM" statement. Thomas asked hard questions of Jesus that perhaps the other disciples did not dare to, and in so doing, helped to crack open the Word a bit more for all of us.

- When have you had doubts or wanted to ask more questions of God?
- What does knowing Jesus as the Way mean to you? How does that impact your life and your relationship with others?

This Bible study was written by Lisa Faber Ginggen.

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12 Chelsea MI 48118 stbarnabaschelsea.org