

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
“A BLENDED SERVICE”**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SONG

Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

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OPENING SENTENCES

P The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
C in those who hope in His steadfast love.

P Taste and see that the LORD is good!
C Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
C In wisdom have You made them all.

P May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
C may the LORD rejoice in His works.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.
Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore announce the grace of God to all of you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being

baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:1–21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son

of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

SONG OF THE DAY

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

1 O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

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SERMON

Be a Uniter, Not a Divider

CREED OF THE CHURCH

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**☩ 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world
Grant us peace
Grant us peace

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BENEDICTION

- P** 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.
- G** Amen.

CLOSING SONG

All the People Said Amen

You are not alone - if you are lonely
When you feel afraid - you're not the only
We are all the same - in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

If you're rich or poor - well it don't matter
Weak or strong - you know love is what we're after
We're all broken - but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His Son to save us all

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people hungry for another start
For theirs is the kingdom - the kingdom of God

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen
And all the people said amen

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SERVING THE LORD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES:

ELDERS: *Tom Weber*

MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS: *Saturday Praise Team: (Director – Julie Sawusch) Vocalists: Mary Fleck, Nancy Reese; Piano: Julie Sawusch; Acoustic Guitar: Tom Vitacco; Bass Guitar: Ron Hilger*

PROJECTION & SOUNDBOARD: *Chris Errera*

SPEAKER: *Reverend Jerry D. Hays*

To be baptized into the saving grace of God this weekend is *Zachary Mark LaHay*, born on January 30, 2021, to Michael and Jessica LaHay, whose sponsors are Laurie Senger and Andy Senger. May God bless this child of His.