

St. Luke's COVID In-Person Eucharist May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Offertory

As we prepare for worship during the time of COVID, we can make several offerings.

We can offer our mask wearing to honor God with this prayer said silently:

We bless you and we praise you, O Jesus Christ,

for commanding us to love one another.

Let this mask be a sign of your love,

and let my behavior be filled with love for my neighbor. Amen.

You also may place your pledge cards or monetary offerings in the box on the usher table before or after worship.

The Word of God

A time of silent meditation with music

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

Song of Praise Hymn 390 Praise to the Lord hymntune: Lobe den Herren

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:

join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song, sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for ever adore him.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow in the way that leads to eternal life; through the One who is our Savior and Redeemer, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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The Lessons

The Epistle is read

A reading from Acts (8:26-40)

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

The Psalm is said by all

Psalm 22:24-30

- 24 My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall praise you: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
- 27 For yours is the royal power, O God; *
you rule over the nations.
- 28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.
- 29 My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; *
they shall be known as yours for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that you have done.

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The New Testament is read

A reading from I John (4:7-21)

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel is read with this introduction and conclusion

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

Celebrant The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

Intercessor: What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for Christ is risen and walks among us. Let us pray with confidence to God: Resurrected Christ, hear us and change us.

For the unity of the Church, that, created in your image and likeness, we may with open hearts see your image in one another. Resurrected Christ, **hear us and change us.**

For all members of St. Luke's, for all worshiping with us now, for all who will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week; that they may grow in faith and trust in you, O God. Resurrected Christ, **hear us and change us.**

For the leaders of nations, states, counties and cities; that, knowing their responsibility and power, they may create a more just and peaceful world. Resurrected Christ, **hear us and change us.**

For those who share in the passion of Christ through illness, violence, loneliness or any other troubles; that they may pass through their sufferings with courage and strength. Resurrected Christ, **hear us and change us.**

For those who have died, for those who are keeping vigil, and for all who grieve; that, holding on to Christ who triumphs over death, they may find comfort and rest for their souls. Resurrected Christ, **hear us and change us.**

Celebrant: Hear our prayers on behalf of those for whom we pray, and give us peace in this time of our Paschal rejoicing, for the sake of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen. Alleluia.**

Adapted from a compilation by the Order of St. Helena's

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

All **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant God, who is both power and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people stay in place during the peace.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Heb 13:16*

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels

in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”
Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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 period of silence is kept.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Sharing of the Bread

All will stay in place while the celebrant delivers bread to each person.

Keep the bread in your hand until the celebrant returns to the altar.

*When instructed, you may remove your mask, consume the bread,
and put your mask back on.*

LEV Sending Prayer (when needed)

When we will be taking communion to people on their lawns, the

Celebrant will then deliver bread to the Eucharistic Visitors.

The LEVs raise their bread as we say this prayer:

Celebrant: We send you out this day to share communion with at-home worshipers.

People: **May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of
Christ's presence.**

Celebrant: May they who receive it from you be strengthened in that fellowship
we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer

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

Blessing

Life is short and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those
who make the journey with us.
So be swift to love
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God who made us,
who loves us, and who travels with us
be with you now and forever.

Henri Frederic Amiel (modified)

Closing Hymn #304, stanzas 3,5 I come with joy Hymntune: *Land of Rest*

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise.

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**