

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

## The Collect of the Day

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 glory; 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.*

## A Reading from Acts 8:26-40

Now 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 1 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 66:1-11

*The Psalm will be chanted.*



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- 1 Be joyful in God, all you **lands**; \*  
sing praises to the honor of his Name; make his praise to be **glorious**.
- 2 Say to God, "How wonderful are your **works**; \*  
through the greatness of your power shall your enemies cower be-**fore**  
**you**.
- 3 For all the world shall **worship you**, \*  
sing to you, and praise your **Name**."
- 4 O come and see the works of **God**, \*  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all **people**.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land,  
so that they went through the water on **foot**; \*  
therefore in him let us re-**joice**.
- 6 He rules with his power for ever; his eyes keep watch over the **nations**; \*  
let not the rebellious exalt them-**selves**.
- 7 Bless our God, you **peoples**, \*  
and make the voice of his praise to be **heard**,
- 8 Who holds our soul in **life**, \*  
and does not allow our feet to **slip**.
- 9 For you, O God, have **proved us**; \*  
you have tried us, as silver is **tried**.

- 10 You brought us into the **snare** \*  
and laid trouble upon our **backs**.
- 11 —You allowed men to ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and **water**; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of **plenty**.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, and to the Holy **Spirit**:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall be**, world with-  
out end.

**A-men.**

### **A Reading from 1 John 3:(11-17)18-24**

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God*

## **The Holy Gospel according to St. John 14:15-21**

*All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Holy Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

*Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.*

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **Proper Preface**

*Easter*

*For the Celebrant to read after the Sursum Corda.*

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 offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.