

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 2025

Welcome/Announcements

The Joyful Creation

As We Gather

The Fifth Sunday of Easter bears the traditional name of Cantate, from the Introit's "Oh sing to the Lord a new song." Not only people but all creation is urged to break out in song. Throughout our worship today we will do just that, for the resurrection news cannot be left to quiet contemplation. Though it was difficult for Peter to convince the others, when they realized Gentiles had received the Spirit, they rejoiced. The vision of heaven in Revelation has no more pain or sorrow; what can be left but joyful singing?

At the end of Jesus' talk to the disciples, He promises "I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). When we are filled with such joy, singing is inevitable. Much of today's worship has us singing a few (or all) of the stanzas of familiar hymns. Let us join the joyful multitude in heaven and earth!

PREPARATION

Opening Songs

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Opening to the sun above

Verse 1

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away

Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

Verse 2

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays
Stars and Angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise

Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Verse 3

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning over us
Brother love binds man to man

Ever singing, march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music lifts us Son ward
In the triumph song of life

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Joy unspeakable Joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go.

CCLI License #174564 CCLI Song #5607039

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love

Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Opening to the sun above

CCLI License #174564 CCLI Song #4255585

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 98:1–2, 4

- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

- P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Confession and Absolution

- P** We have come together to praise and thank God for His overwhelming grace and mercy. Singing and rejoicing are natural for us, but we cannot come to God with our sins and failures. Let us therefore confess our sins and ask for mercy for the sake of Christ.
- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** God has called you to life, He has given His Son to pay for your sins, and He has given you and all believers in Christ the faith to trust all His promises. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

WORD

Introit

Psalm 98:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
**Glory be 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.**
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.
C **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;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in

the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘**What God has made clean, do not call common.**’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘**John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’ ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Revelation 21:1–7

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²[Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”

¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Song of the Day

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2:

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Chorus:

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns.
Un-ending love, amazing grace

Verse 3:

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Chorus 2x

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are, forever mine.

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Sermon

Guest Pastor, Rev. Terry Cripe

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 98:1

- P** Let us pray for ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various conditions. For ourselves, that the faith within us be evident to the people around us, that they will want to find out more about our risen Savior.
- C** In thanksgiving may they sing a new song with us!
- P** For those who call out to God for relief from poverty, discrimination, and injustice, that God provide relief so that they live peaceful and fruitful lives.

C In unbounded joy may they sing a new song with us!

P For those who are ill and those who care for them, that God would restore them to health and provide the strength they need.

C In their relief may they sing a new song with us!

P For all who carry the Gospel in far-flung lands, that God open doors of opportunity for the spread of the Gospel.

C In all corners of the earth may they sing a new song with us!

P These and any other things God would have us ask of Him, that He grant them for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Amen.

Offering: If you were prepared to bring an offering today, you may leave it as you exit the sanctuary. Member/Visitor and Prayer Request cards may be left with your offering as well. Thank you

SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You stopped at nothing to forgive our sins to the point of giving Your own Son for our salvation. We gather with the faithful here on earth to sing Your praises until You bid us join all who sit at table with the Lamb in His kingdom. To You alone, heavenly Father, be all praise and glory, now and forever.

C 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.”

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord’s Prayer

- C** **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution Songs

Give Us Clean Hands

We bow our hearts
We bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes
From evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

So give us clean hands
and give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Oh give us clean hands
and give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another

Oh God let us be
a generation that seeks
Who seeks Your face, Oh God of Jacob
Oh God let us be
a generation that seeks
Who seeks Your face, Oh God of Jacob

(Repeat all from beginning)

Draw Me Close

Draw me close to You, never let me go.
I lay it all down a-gain to hear You say that I'm Your friend.
You are my desire, no one else will do.
Cause noth – thing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find a way, bring me back to You.

Chorus:

You're all I want. You're all I ever needed.
You're all I want. Help me know You are near.

(repeat from beginning)

Ending:

Help me know You are here.

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.
- C** **Keep us firm in the true faith that we may join the rest of Your good creation in singing Your praises at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Song

Because He Lives (Amen) (Chris Tomlin)

I believe in the Son
I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood

Chorus

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
(Because He lives)

Verse 2

I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away

Chorus 2

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends

Bridge

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life
My future in His hands

Chorus 2x

Ending

Because He lives
Because He lives

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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