

May 2, 2021—5th Sunday of Easter

with commemoration of Athanasius of Alexandria, Pastor & Confessor

Opening Hymn: 487 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

- 1 **Come, you faithful, raise the strain
 Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
 Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
 Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot
 Through the Red Sea waters.**

- 2 **'Tis the spring of souls today:
 Christ has burst His prison
And from three days' sleep in death
 As a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins,
 Long and dark, is flying
From His light, to whom is giv'n
 Laud and praise undying.**

- 3 **Now the queen of seasons, bright
 With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts
 Comes its joy to render;
Comes to gladden faithful hearts
 Which with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strain
 Jesus' resurrection!**

- 4 **For today among His own
 Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore
 Passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death
 Nor the tomb's dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal
 Hold Him as a mortal.**

- 5 **Alleluia! Now we cry
 To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars
 Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain
 Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
 Into joy from sadness!**

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Introit:

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.
I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!**

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**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.

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Gloria

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**
P Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
C **For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading: 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 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual — Pastor

Epistle Reading: 1 John 4:1–11

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse—Pastor

Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Hymn: 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

- 1 Alleluia!**
Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb,
Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain
- ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:**
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 2 Walking the way,**
Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread,
Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain
- 3 Jesus the vine,**
We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth,
Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain
- 4 Weeping, be gone;**
Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing:
"O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain
- 5 City of God,**
Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life,
Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

Catechism

My First Catechism pg 47

P What is the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P What great benefit does the Holy Spirit give me in the Church?

C **In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C 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

Offertory

P What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

C I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

P I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

C I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

1 **Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

ref **Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!**

2 **For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo;
And in its conquest His might did show. Refrain**

- 3** **The angel said to them, "Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
Only the grave cloths are lying there." Refrain**
- 4** **"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain**
- 5** **Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Refrain**