

Divine Service - Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

The Opening Hymn: 468 ss1-4

1. I am content! My Jesus ever lives,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God’s wrath he has appeased.
Since he in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!

2. I am content! My Jesus is my head;
His member I shall be.
He bowed his head when on the cross he died
With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me by Jesus’ resurrection.
I am content! I am content!

3. I am content! My Jesus is my light,
My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation
And everlasting exultation.
I am content! I am content!

4. I am content! At length I shall be free,
Awakened from the dead,

Arising glorious evermore to be
With You, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!

The Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: Beloved in the LORD. Let us draw near with a
true heart and confess our sins to God our
Father, imploring him in the name of our LORD
Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

The Confession

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

CONG: Who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD.

CONG: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

PASTOR: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we
poor sinners confess to you that we are by
nature sinful and unclean and that we have
sinned against you by thought, word, and
deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your
boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your
grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your
only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on
us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our

sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

PASTOR: 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.

CONG: Amen.

The Introit of the Day Ps 149:1; Ps 30:1-5

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down
to the pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

Gloria Patri

CONG: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

CONG: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis

CONG: Glory be to God on high; and on earth
peace, good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship
Thee,
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for
Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father
Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father,
That takest away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art
most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

PASTOR: 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.

CONG: Amen.

The First Reading: ACTS 6:1-9

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem,

and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

The Gradual adapt. from Matt 28:7; Heb 2:7; Ps 8:6

PASTOR: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor, He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

The Epistle: I PETER 2:2-10

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in Scripture:

 "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

 "The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone,"

8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Verse Rom 6:9; John 14:23

PASTOR: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

PASTOR: **The Holy Gospel:** ST. JOHN 14:1-6

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

4 And you know the way to where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Choir: "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" #458

1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands,
And brings us life from Heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be,
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. No son of man could conquer death,
Such ruin sin had wrought us,
No innocence was found on earth,
And therefore death had brought us
Into bondage from of old
And ever grew more strong and bold
And held us as its captive. Alleluia!

3. Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,
His people to deliver;
Destroying sin, He took the crown
From death's pale brow forever;
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!

4. It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended;
The victory remained with life;
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That death is swallowed up by death,
Its sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

5. Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong His love—to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

6. So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now His grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended! Alleluia!

7. Then let us feast this Easter day
On Christ, the bread of Heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

The Nicene Creed (We Confess Together)

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.

The Sermon Hymn: 526 ss. 1-4

1 You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.

2 You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

3 You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,

That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

The Sermon: It's Old Ground, Until You Have to Walk it!
John 14:1-6

The Offertory

CONG: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and
take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and
uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Closing Hymn: 658 ss1-5

1. Preserve your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let your kingdom flourish; Enlarge your Church, we
pray.
Oh, keep our faith from failing; Keep hope's bright star
aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.
2. Preserve, O Lord, your honor The bold blasphemer
smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.
Reveal your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living, That all your name may know.
3. Preserve, O Lord, your Zion, Bought dearly with your
blood;
Protect what you have chosen Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender When dangers gather round;

When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may your Church be
found.

4. Preserve your Word and preaching. The truth that
makes us whole,
The mirror of your glory, The power that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heavenly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see your face.
5. Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little
flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor In your eternal light.

The Benediction

PASTOR: 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.
CONG: Amen.

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