

# Sunday Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

2 May 2021

*The Gathering*<sup>1</sup>

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

**May Christ fill our hearts with joy!**

*Thanksgiving for Baptism*<sup>2</sup>

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Easter Anthems<sup>3</sup>

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,  
**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.  
**In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.**

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Romans 6.9—11*

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.  
**For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**

for as in Adam all die:  
**even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

*1 Corinthians 15.20—22*

**Glory to God,  
Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.  
Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## The First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards 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.

Acts 8.26—40

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

Give praise all you that fear the Lord; •  
proclaim God's greatness, all you children of Jacob,  
stand in awe all you children of Israel.

**For you, O God,  
have not despised or abhorred those living in poverty in their affliction: •**

you have not hidden your face from them,  
but you heard them when they called to you.

**You are the theme of my praise in the full assembly; •  
my vows I will perform in the sight of those who fear you.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek you, O Lord, shall praise you: •  
may they be in good heart for ever.

**Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to you, O Lord, •  
and let all the families of the nations bow down before you.**

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, •  
and you are the ruler over the nations.

**As for those who sleep in the grave, how shall they worship you; •  
all those who go down into the dust, how shall they bow before you?**

But I shall live through you, and my children shall serve you; •  
they shall tell of you to the generations that are yet to come.

**To a people as yet unborn they shall make known •  
the saving deeds you have done.**

*Psalm 22.24—30*

**Glory to God,  
Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

## *The Gospel*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

*John 15. 1—8*

The gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## *The Reflection*

## *The Prayers of the People*

Versicle and Response:

**V** We sing your praises, Holy One;

**R** **Fill us with your risen life.**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

As Jesus teaches us, so we pray:

**Our Father  
in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin  
against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## *The Collect<sup>4</sup>*

O God, you give us the Son as the vine,  
apart from whom we cannot live.  
Nourish our life in his resurrection,  
so that we bear the fruit of love  
and know the fullness of your joy;  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## *The Blessing*

## *The Dismissal*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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<sup>1</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*. Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>2</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<sup>3</sup> *Common Praise: Daily Prayer*. Church of England. “Morning Prayer. Easter.” 263—64.

<sup>4</sup> *Alternative Collects for Years A, B & C of the Revised Common Lectionary*. Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.