

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 15, 2022**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN**                    *EvLW # 367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

**We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.**

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness, and we pass safely through.

**In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.**

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

**To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honour, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### Acts 11:1-18

*In defence of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

## PSALM 148

The splendour of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights. Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created, who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds; sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; young men and maidens, old and young together.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is over earth and heaven. The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING****Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

**GOSPEL****John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY****EvLW # 377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!****CREED**

New Zealand Prayer Book

**You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved. Your love for us in Jesus Christ, Who lived and died and rose again. You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship You. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendour. Direct them to the people who need their attention most and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**LITANY FOR UKRAINE** *(used by permission, Jeff Enns)*

**For a world drowned in darkness, let me be the light.**

**For a world lost in hatred, let me show love.**

**Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy.)**

**For a world steeped in suffering, let me offer comfort.**

**For a world that is lonely, let me be a friend.**

**Kyrie eleison.**

**For a world that craves warfare, let me be the dove of peace.**

**For a world that is weeping, let me wipe away the tears.**

**Kyrie eleison.**

**For a world trapped in sadness, let me bring joy.**

**For a world in constant doubting, let me sow seeds of faith.**

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress especially Deb, Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, and Carol. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Place holy love at the centre of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**EvLW # 389 *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing***

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	May 16	1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42	Acts 11:19-26	Psalm 133
Tue	May 17	2 Samuel 1:4-27	Acts 11:27-30	Psalm 133
Wed	May 18	Leviticus 19:9-18	Luke 10:25-28	Psalm 133
Thu	May 19	Proverbs 2:1-5	Acts 15:36-41	Psalm 67
Fri	May 20	Proverbs 2:6-8	Acts 16:1-8	Psalm 67
Sat	May 21	Proverbs 2:9-15	Luke 19:1-10	Psalm 67
Sun	May 22	Acts 16:9-15	Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29	Psalm 67 (4)

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**UPCOMING**

Wednesdays Dwelling in the Word; 1PM in the St. James Library  
May 15 Confirmation Class – 2PM – 4PM  
May 16 - 20 Virtual Festival of Homiletics  
May 25 Notices and articles for Reflections are due.  
June 02 Provincial Election Polling Station at St. James

**OFFICE HOURS – Monday to Friday 8:30-Noon**

Pastor Julianne: Mon, Tues, Thursday  
Debra: Mon, Tues, Thursday, Friday  
Marion: Wednesday