



*May 2, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday*

## **Welcome/Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

**For we are called to dance again!**

### **Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", #384**

1) Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

2) Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find that second rest.  
Take away our love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

3) Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

4) Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

#### **Opening Prayer**

**Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –**

**Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.**

**Give us courage and patience.**

**Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –  
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.**

**Be with us now, we pray. Amen.**

#### **Children's Time**

**First Reading: Psalm 22:25-31**

**Second Reading: Acts 8:26-39**

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD

**People: Thanks be to GOD**

**Sermon "From You Comes My Praise: Guide My Steps"**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Special Music**

### **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures below: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power  
uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell  
in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other  
places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of  
increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. As we offer our  
gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of  
heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at  
this table?

**Open us to your grace, Lord.**

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?

**Open us to your call, Lord.**

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ?

**Transform us, O Lord.**

As we prepare to attend the heavenly feast, we especially pray for those who have no earthly  
tables, or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance  
that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all.

In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.

The invitation of Christ is never-ending.

The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God! Amen!**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Jesus is with us!

**With us now and forever!**

So lift up your hearts and voices!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let's join in thanks and praise!

**How right it is to do this together!**

Holy Living One,

You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.  
You breathed life all around and called it good.  
You invited us to the wonder of it all  
and when we could not face you, you turned us around.  
You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,  
offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and present,  
singing a never-ending hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy!**  
**God of power and might,**  
**everywhere we see your glory!**  
**Blessed are they who come in your name.**  
**Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!**

Indeed, you are holy!  
And blessed is your son Jesus,  
Anointed One, Liberator,  
Dance Partner, Sibling, Friend.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place  
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.  
And on the night when he would give all love for us,  
he sat at the table with extended family—  
just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God,  
over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with unc customary words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you.  
Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—it is the sign of a new covenant,  
(for business-as-usual is over and done and the dance goes on).  
This love is poured out for all people.  
Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Spirit upon us now!  
Pour out your transforming presence

on the gifts of this body  
and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine.  
May they be for us your life and love,  
uniting us as one body—Christ’s body—  
for the sake of loving the world.

All glory to you, Living Presence, Holy One, Holy God,  
through Jesus our Christ  
and the Holy Spirit our Advocate.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord’s Prayer**

**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. Amen.**

### **Partaking of the Elements of Communion**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **Hymn “Guide My Feet”, #2208**

1) Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

2) Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

3) Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

4) I’m your child while I run this race.  
I’m your child while I run this race.  
I’m your child while I run this race.  
for I don’t want to run this race in vain!

5) Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race.  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

6) Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

### **Benediction Song**

“Bless Us Now”

Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

#### Church Staff

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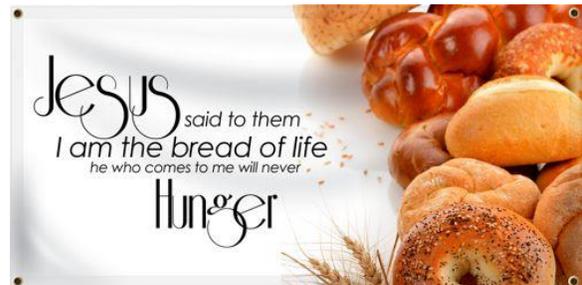
#### Office Staff

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## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Via Zoom**

Thursday May 6, 10 a.m. Bible Study

Fellowship after every Sunday Service

***Altar flowers from Alan and Deb Anderson in celebration of grandson Drew and Rosa Dupre's anniversary.***

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