



# Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

**Prelude:** "Amazing Grace"

instrumental by Dianne Hitchens

**Gather Hymn: #487 (vs. 1&3)**

Come, my way, my truth, my life  
Such a way as gives us breath  
Such a truth as ends all strife  
Such a life as killeth death

Come, my way, my love, my heart  
Such a joy as none can move  
Such a love as none can part  
Such a heart as joys in love

*Priest: Alleluia Christ is risen.*

*People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia*

## **Collect**

*Celebrant: The Lord be with you.*

*People: And also with you.*

*Celebrant: Let us pray.*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

*Let us pray.*

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**A reading from the Book of Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Celebrant:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*(A period of silent reflection follows the reading)*

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

### *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."

### **A reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

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

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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.

*Celebrant:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God

*(A period of silent reflection follows the reading)*

**Sequence Hymn: "Big House"**

by Barry Blair, Bob Herdman, Mark Stuart & Will McGinniss

Come and go with me  
To my Father's house  
Come and go with me  
To my Father's house

It's a big big house  
With lots and lots of rooms  
A big big table  
With lots and lots of food  
A big big yard  
Where we can play football  
A big big house  
It's my Father's house

Come and go with me  
To my Father's house  
Come and go with me  
To my Father's house

It's a big big house  
With lots and lots of rooms  
A big big table  
With lots and lots of food  
A big big yard  
Where we can play football  
A big big house

It's my Father's house  
It's my Father's house  
It's my Father's house

## **Reading from the Gospel**

**John 14:1-14**

*Clergy:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*Clergy:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

**Peter Stube**

## **The Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is

seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People**

*(In the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, silently or to share your request with the community, choose the "Chat" icon on the bottom of your Zoom screen, type the prayers you would like to share, and hit enter on your keyboard)*

We bid your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Daniel, and for the leaders and ministers of our parish. Pray for the church.

We bid your prayers for the well-being of all people and nations; remembering our president, the Congress of the United States, Governors of our States, and Heads of the nations that they may lead wisely in this dangerous time and care deeply for the Common Good of the people of the earth committed to their care. Pray for health and peace on the earth.

We bid your prayers for those who live alone and those who are now isolated from family members, for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, and the sick. We especially ask healing and strength for June, Margaret, Brian, Dorothea, Lou, Ernie, Millie Graf, Norman Milnes, Ryan Mellor and Elisabeth Neu. And others we name in the silence.

We bid your prayers for all your children around the world who struggle to find peace and health in this time of pandemic.

We bid your prayers for families as they gather at home as a result of schools closing early and jobs ending, allow them to find grace, strength and hope. Bind them together in encouragement, healing, and unity around your throne.

We bid your prayers for those who live alone that they may not be lonely in their solitude, those who are dying alone during this pandemic and for their families who are unable to be with them. May they find their hope in God who awaits us all in his nearer presence.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women who are working to protect our nation at this time of need; particularly we pray for all who work in essential jobs; grocery workers, doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, administrators, food workers, cleaning staff, clerks and all others who serve in hospitals, medical offices,

retirement centers and testing centers. We also pray for the researchers who are working to develop new medicines and vaccines to fight Covid-19.

We bid your prayer for God's grace and guidance for "first responders" and law enforcement officers in our communities, as well as those on active duty in our military services; especially Alex Oliver, Evan Farren, Andrew Pascuzzi, Steven Masker, Connor Kreston, Jon Clark, Chris Fanizzi, Kyle Beck, Jaime Johnstonbaugh, Justin Miller, Michael Selner and their families. Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

We bid your prayers for those who have died.

We pray in the day this crisis has passed, that we will be ready to face that day with hope and new vision, because during this time we have followed your Holy Spirit step by step, responding in joyful obedience to your daily guidance. Heal us and broaden our understanding of you so that we are equipped with new vision to anticipate the changed world we will encounter when the pandemic is past. Prepare us to embrace your future.

Come my way, my truth, my life that our hearts my rest in you Lord Christ..

*The priest ends with the requests that have been offered in "Chat" at the bottom of your screen.*

## **Peace**

**Offertory Hymn: *Meditation on "I Cannot Tell"*** Renew 160

Phil LeFevre

### *Verse 1*

I cannot tell why He whom angels worship  
Should come in flesh as prophets long foretold  
Or why the Shepherd longs to save the wanderers  
And bring them back rejoicing to the fold  
But this I know that He was born of Mary  
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home  
And that He lived at Nazareth and labored  
And so the promised Savior of the world is come

### *Verse 2*

I cannot tell how silently He suffered  
As with His peace He graced this place of tears  
Or how His heart upon the cross was broken  
The crown of pain to three and thirty years  
But this I know He heals the broken-hearted  
And stays our sin and calms our lurking fear  
And lifts the burden from the heavy-laden  
For still the suffering Savior of the world is here

### *Verse 3*

I cannot tell how He will win the nations  
How He will claim His earthly heritage  
How satisfy the needs and aspirations  
Of east and west of sinner and of sage  
But this I know all flesh shall see His glory  
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown  
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendor  
When He the risen Savior of the world is known

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.



He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### **The 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

*“This prayer is an ancient prayer of the Church. Its old forms can be found in St. Augustine’s Prayer book, and in every Intercession Paper of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. At this time of the Virus when we cannot be physically present, it can become a way to receive a spiritual communion as we watch a living streaming Mass.”*

### **Easter Blessing**

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight.

And the blessing of God almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all for ever. Amen

### **Parish Announcements**

**Service Hymn: “No Sweeter Name”**

by Kari Jobe

Verse

No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

No sweeter name have I ever known  
No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

Chorus

You are the life to my heart and my soul  
You are the light to the darkness around me  
You are the hope to the hopeless and broken  
You are the only truth and the way

Bridge

Jesus Jesus  
Jesus Jesus

*Please join us immediately after the service for **Virtual Coffee Hour**. We will gather for conversation and fellowship via a **Zoom** meeting. Grab a cup of coffee, and we'll see you there!*

*Meeting ID: **876-0636-9866***

*Phone Dial In Number: 1.929.205.6099 (then enter the Meeting ID when prompted)*