



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Contemplative Service

April 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Gathering

Opening Responses and Gathering Prayer

Leader: Alleluia! O God, may the empty tomb

People: **fill our hearts with faith. Alleluia!**

Silence

Leader: Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life; As the gift of our days unfold, open our hearts and minds to you, that we may see you clearly and follow where you lead; to you, risen Savior, we offer praise, now and always.

People: **Amen.**

The Word of God & Contemplative Reflection

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Sacred Reading

A reading from the gospel according to John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

Sharing of the Day: With God, with each other

- Is there a word or phrase that speaks to you in the Gospel?
- How is God asking you abide in resurrection hope in this moment?
- How does this call you to live more fully or differently as you abide in Easter?

Conclusion of Contemplative Reflection

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Concern

Leader: Remembering God's invitation to abide with Jesus in the spirit of Easter season let us confidently ask God for what we need.

Silence

Leader: Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and truth.

All: **May we walk in newness of life.**

Leader: Teach us to love others and all creation in the power of the Spirit.

All: **May we walk in newness of life.**

At this time, your prayers and thanksgivings are invited in the COMMENTS

Leader: Having asked for what we need, strengthen us witnesses to your love.

All: **May we walk in newness of life.**

The Lord's Prayer

All: **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.**

Collect

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Sending in Service to the World

General Thanksgiving

All: Jesus, strong deliverer and our lover,
as you sent Mary Magdalene to tell
the good news of your resurrection,
so fill and embolden us with your love
that we may be your faithful witnesses
in the world this week.
In your name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

Leader: On your journey of abiding
with Jesus this Easter season,
may you be a new creation,
Christ for those to who Christ shall send you,

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

The service concludes

Leader: Go in Peace to love and serve our Savior. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God.** Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements

Earth Care Networking

Tuesday, April 30th

7-8:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Earth Care Commission and SpiritBound will host our second conversation about what is happening in environmental stewardship around the state. We'll exchange our collective wisdom on topics such as reducing plastics in our communities, talk about lessening our carbon footprint collectively and individually as well as opportunities for environmental policy advocacy. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. [Register here.](#)



Late Spring Session
Tuesdays on Zoom
7:00 - 8 p.m.

May 21, May 28,
June 4, June 11

**Registration is open
for another opportunity
of small group
faith sharing.**

Spirit Chats Late Spring Session

Tuesdays- May 21, May 28, June 4,
June 11

7:00 pm; Zoom link emailed upon
Registration

Due to High Interest with a waiting list, we've scheduled another session of Spirit Chats. REGISTER today to join this exciting movement!

Spirit Chats are an opportunity for small group faith sharing. Have you ever experienced a "God-incident" in your life and wanted to share it but weren't sure where or with whom? If you feel God has been moving in your life, and you want to hear from others

how God is moving in theirs, the Evangelism Task Force—a joint project of the Episcopal dioceses of Maine and New Hampshire—has an opportunity and an invitation for you to share your story during Spirit Chats. **Registration Link, [click here](#)** **Contact:** the Rev. Tim Higgins-revtimhiggins@gmail.com or the Rev. Alanna Van Antwerpen- avanantwerpen@nhepiscopal.org

Worship Gatherer

Presider: The Rev. Alanna Van Antwerpen, Missioner, SpiritBound Digital Mission

Worship Material

- Iona Abbey: Creation Liturgy and Extra Resources
- Daily Prayer for All Seasons: Easter- Discernment; Wisdom; Ordinary Time Creation- Perseverance & Renewal
- The Book of Common Prayer- Collects



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