

St Martin's Church, North Nibley
2nd May 2021
A Service of the Word for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you!

The priest introduces the service.

Hymn :

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near;
thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

4. Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
boasted pomp and empty show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

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News and Notices

Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **He has given us new life and hope.**

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

All **He has brought us out of darkness.**

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.
God's word is for all of us.
May it be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.

The Collect, the prayer for the day:

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Official

26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is not used nowadays.) **27-28** So Philip got ready and went. Now an Ethiopian eunuch, who was an important official in charge of the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia, was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home in his carriage. As he rode along, he was reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." **30** Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him. **32** The passage of scripture which he was reading was this:

"He was like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered,
like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off.
He did not say a word.

33

He was humiliated, and justice was denied him.
No one will be able to tell about his descendants,
because his life on earth has come to an end."

34 The official asked Philip, “Tell me, of whom is the prophet saying this? Of himself or of someone else?” **35** Then Philip began to speak; starting from this passage of scripture, he told him the Good News about Jesus. **36** As they traveled down the road, they came to a place where there was some water, and the official said, “Here is some water. What is to keep me from being baptized?” **37-**

38 The official ordered the carriage to stop, and both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The official did not see him again, but continued on his way, full of joy.

40 Philip found himself in Azotus; he went on to Caesarea, and on the way he preached the Good News in every town.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus the Real Vine

15 “I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. **3** You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. **4** Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. **6** Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. **8** My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.

Sermon

Anthem

The Lord is my Light, by George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then shall I be afraid?

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Creed *[Priest]* Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

We believe in one God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praying for Ourselves: for Forgiveness:

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praying for Others : our Intercessions

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

Hymn. 1. Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

Refrain:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above: [Refrain]

3. His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given: [Refrain]

4. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet: [Refrain]

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Our service draws to a conclusion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

The Blessing

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