

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

*St Henry and St Stephen Catholic Churches*

## Introductory Rites

### **Entrance Antiphon [Introit]** Psalm 98:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

**Kyrie:** *Deacon or Priest/ All:* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **Collect**

Almighty everliving God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of eternal life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading** Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,  
but they were all afraid of him,  
not believing that he was a disciple.  
Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles,  
and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord,  
and that he had spoken to him,  
and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.  
He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem,  
and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.  
He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists,  
but they tried to kill him.  
And when the brothers learned of this,  
they took him down to Caesarea  
and sent him on his way to Tarsus.  
The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.  
It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,  
and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 22:26-27 / 28 / 30 / 31-32

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of the people.**

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.

The lowly shall eat their fill;  
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:  
“May your hearts live forever!”

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of the people.**

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of the nations  
shall bow down before him.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of the people.**

To him alone shall bow down  
all who sleep in the earth;  
before him shall bend  
all who go down into the dust.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of the people.**

And to him my soul shall live;  
my descendants shall serve him.  
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD  
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born  
the justice he has shown.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of the people.**

**Second Reading**      I John 3:18-24

*A reading from the first Letter of St. John:*

Children, let us love not in word or speech  
but in deed and truth.  
Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth  
and reassure our hearts before him  
in whatever our hearts condemn,  
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.  
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,  
we have confidence in God  
and receive from him whatever we ask,  
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.  
And his commandment is this:  
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,  
and love one another just as he commanded us.  
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,

and the way we know that he remains in us  
is from the Spirit he gave us.

The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Verse:** John 15:4a,5b

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Gospel** John 15:1-8

The Lord be with you. *All: And with your spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. *All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,  
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own  
unless it remains on the vine,

so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,  
because without me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me  
will be thrown out like a branch and wither;

people will gather them and throw them into a fire  
and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,  
ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

By this is my Father glorified,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **Homily**

### **Profession of Faith - The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
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.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

# Liturgy of the Eucharist

## **Offertory Antiphon** Psalm 66:1, 2, 16

Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth, sing praise to the glory of his name. Hear now, all who fear God, while I declare what he has done for me, alleluia.

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice, have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
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 Mystery of Faith**

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## **Communion Antiphon** John 17:24

Father, I wish that where I am, those you gave me may also be with me, that they may see the glory that you gave me, alleluia.

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. 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.”*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Graciously be present you your people, we pray, O Lord,  
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries  
to pass from former ways to newness of life.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of Pope Francis during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of all people,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.  
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.  
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,  
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

# Concluding Rites

## Solemn Blessing

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son  
was pleased to confer on you  
the gift of redemption and of adoption,  
give you gladness by his blessing.

*Amen.*

May he, by whose redeeming work  
you have received the gift of everlasting freedom,  
make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

*Amen.*

And may you, who have already risen with Christ  
in Baptism through faith,  
by living in a right manner on this earth,  
be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

*Amen.*

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

*Amen.*