



Fifth Sunday of Easter – Council at Jerusalem

May 2, 2021

8:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Triptych on “Now the Green Blade Rises”

Mark Sedio

- I. “Now the green blade rises”
- II. “In the tomb they laid him”
- III. “Forth he came at Easter”

OPENING SENTENCES

Though your love is burning within us
We do not see you on the road, Jesus.

Open our eyes and our ears
Open our hearts and increase our faith.

How can we understand
Unless someone guides us?

Send us out rejoicing,
As we have been saved through your grace

And not through our own works.
It is no longer I who live

But it is Christ who lives in me.
We are all your children through faith.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Dearest God who knows our hearts, often we pull apart and divide your people. Remind us that we have been saved through the grace of your son, Jesus. You have made the choice to bring us all together in this faith, and you make no distinction between us. Help us live into this great joy. In Jesus’ holy name,
Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness” from *Biblical Songs*

Antonín Dvořák

NARRATIVE READING

Today’s narrative reading is from the book of Acts:

Acts 15:1-18

¹Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹²The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ⁵This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
¹⁷so that all other peoples may seek the Lord —
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things
¹⁸known from long ago.'

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"God, Our Ever Faithful Shepherd"

Johann Sebastian Bach

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us proclaim the faith that we share:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We gather our prayers using a sung response

Guided by the spirit and gathered into one, let us pray for the church, the world and all God's creation.



Melody: Traditional Korean folksong

Each petition concludes:

[Sung Response]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that you always hear our prayers.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray as our Savior taught:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in D Major, BWV 532"

Johann Sebastian Bach

PREACHING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
PRESIDING Pastor Stephanie Friesen
ASSISTING Ann Oyen
ORGANISTS Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio, Isaac Drewes
SOLOIST Robin Helgen
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>*

***Chancel flowers this weekend are given by the Floral Guild.
If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.***