



## *Evening Prayer*

May 1, 2021

5:00 p.m.

### PRELUDE

Improvisation on "Now the Green Blade Rises"

### 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.**

### NARRATIVE READING

Acts 15:1-18

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

<sup>1</sup>Then 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." <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>So 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. <sup>4</sup>When 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. <sup>5</sup>But 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."

<sup>6</sup>The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup>After 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. <sup>8</sup>And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; <sup>9</sup>and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. <sup>10</sup>Now 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? <sup>11</sup>On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

<sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. <sup>5</sup>This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

<sup>16</sup>'After 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,

<sup>17</sup>so 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

<sup>18</sup>known from long ago.'

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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.

Lord, — in your mer - cy, hear — our prayer.

*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.**

#### MUSICAL MEDITATION

Meditation on “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

PREACHING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe  
ASSISTING Ann Oyen  
MUSICIAN Isaac Drewes  
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.**