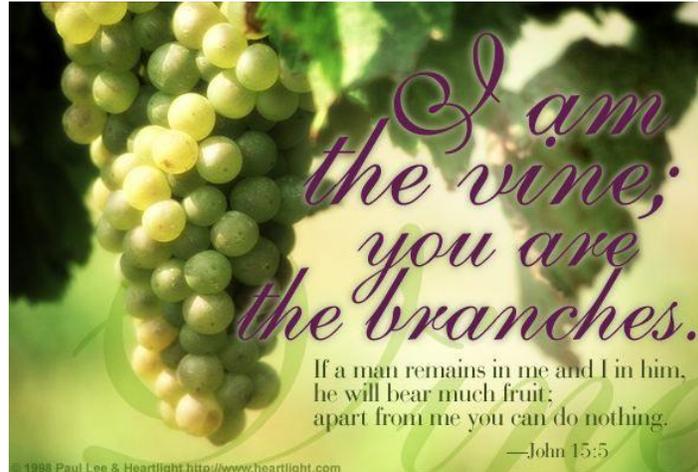


**A Service of Morning Prayer  
for May 2, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Easter**



I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. *John 15.5*

**CP 59 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him**

1 Jesus calls us here to meet him,  
As through word and song and prayer  
We affirm God's promised presence  
Where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
Praise the Son who calls us friends;  
Praise the spirit who, among us,  
To our hopes and fears attends.

2 Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of life and Lord of all,  
Sharer of our flesh and frailness,  
Saving all who fail or fall.  
Tell his holy human story;  
Tell his tales that all may hear;  
Tell the world that Christ in glory  
Came to earth to meet us here.

3 Jesus calls us to each other:  
Found in him are no divides.  
Race and class and sex and language  
Such are barriers he derides.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
Join the hands of age and youth;  
Join the faithful and the doubter  
In their common search for truth.

4 Jesus calls us to his table  
Rooted firm in time and space,  
Where the church in each and heaven  
Finds a common meeting place.  
Share the bread and wine, his body;  
Share the love of which we sing;  
Share the feast for saints and sinners  
Hosted by our Lord and King.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,

**to you all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,**

**and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

**that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed: O come, let us worship.**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*Refrain:* All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.

22:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

22:29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

22:31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**A Reading from Acts 8:26-40**

8:26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

8:27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

8:28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

8:30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

8:31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

8:32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

8:33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

8:34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

8:35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

8:36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

8:38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CP 547 I Sought the Lord**

1 I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew  
He moved my soul to seek him, seeking  
me.

It was not I that found, O saviour true;  
No, I was found of thee.

2 Thou didst reach forth thy hand and  
mine enfold;  
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed  
sea.

'Twas not so much that I on thee took  
hold

As thou, dear Lord, on me.

3 I find, I walk, I love; but, oh,  
The whole of love is but my answer, Lord,  
to thee!

For thou wert long beforehand with my  
soul;

Always thou lovedst me.

**A Reading from I John 4:7-21**

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

4:9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

4:11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

4:15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

4:16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

4:19 We love because he first loved us.

4:20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

4:21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CCLI 27817 My Jesus I Love Thee**

1. My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine  
 For Thee all the follies of sin I resign  
 My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou  
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me  
 And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree  
 I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow  
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

3. I'll love Thee in life I will love Thee in death  
 And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath  
 And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow  
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight  
 I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright  
 I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow  
 If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**John 15:1-8**

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

15:4 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.

15:5 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.

15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon** by the Rev. Heather Liddell

**CCLI 7007329 Branches**

1. I'm here separated apart and torn away  
 Broken branches in need of Your grace  
 There is no life apart from You  
 You're here in my failing  
 Your word makes me pure in my weakness  
 Your strength is secure  
 All of my life is found in You

*Chorus*

You are the vine  
 We are the branches  
 I am nothing without You  
 It's all for Your glory  
 All for Your purpose  
 Less of me and more of You

2. I'm here fully grafted inside of Your love  
 In every season Your grace is enough  
 You are in me as I'm in You  
 I'm called and appointed showing Your life  
 I am chosen  
 A co-heir with Christ  
 Your word inside me now bearing Your fruit

*Chorus*

You are the vine  
 We are the branches  
 I am nothing without You  
 It's all for Your glory  
 All for Your purpose  
 Less of me and more of You

*Bridge*

Abide in me and I in You  
 You've made me free I know Your truth  
 My friend You love me You gave me life  
 Forever I am one with Christ

*Chorus*

You are the vine  
 We are the branches  
 I am nothing without You  
 It's all for Your glory  
 All for Your purpose  
 Less of me and more of You

**Affirmation of Faith** (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He 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  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again  
 to judge the living and the dead.  
 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 People** led and compiled by The Rev. Alison Westervelt

Let us pray in union with our risen Lord and in the power of the Holy Spirit saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church:

- for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East
- for the Diocese of Toronto and Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Suffragan Bishops.
- for St. Patrick, Whitecourt and Priest-in-Charge, Rita Milne.
- for the Buyé Synod Office: Amos Mu-te-zi-mana, Evangelism Officer; Daniel Bizimana, Health and Christian Education Coordinator; Noel Nta-ma-vukiro, Gender-Based Violence and Peace and Reconciliation Officer.
- for our brothers and sisters of the Whitefish Lake First Nation.
- for our Diocese of Edmonton, for the search committee, dedicated to the search for a new bishop and for a smooth transition.
- for our parish of St. Peter's, her clergy, her wardens and vestry, altar guild, maintenance, bulletin creators, treasurer, prayer cycle, ACW members, lay readers, volunteers, phone call makers and all who serve and are brothers and sisters in this loving and accepting family of God, that we may never forget that no matter where we are located, or how we are connected, that we are all loved by God and that we are privileged to be his loving children and servants. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community:

- that those in need of food, clothing, shelter, compassion, care, medicine, companionship, even a simple smile can find their wants fulfilled by a loving community and that we can shine as a beacon of hope to all in any need. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world:

- for all leaders that they may be motivated in their decisions and actions by a desire to fight for the welfare of all people;
- for those held hostage by famine, by war, by civil unrest, by injustice, by fear, by poverty, by wide-spread illness, by corrupted powers, that they may know that they are not alone or forgotten and that leaders may be moved to bring about the changes needed. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need:

- for those who suffer from addictions, from mental and emotional distress, from loneliness, from work pressures, from lack of employment, from homelessness, from financial worries, from fear and isolation, from illness of the body or spirit; we bring before you those who have requested our prayers: Sandra; Merle; Mona; Nicole; Lois; Ray; Evelyn; Irene and Sandy; Joyce; Jim and Par; Kathryn; Trevor; Helen; Brent; Jenifer; Gavin, Ginnie and Niall; Judy; Tony; Thelma; Luisa; Carey and Olga; Chrissie, Cathy, Dawson, and Faith, and all who are suffering from the CoVid virus, and also all those who care for them, whether in a hospital, care home, or in their own homes.

Lord, we ask that you grant to each one according to their needs and that they may be comforted, strengthened, encouraged, and brought to the knowledge that they are remembered and loved. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are dying, who have died, and those who mourn:

Lord, may you ease their suffering and give them the peace of knowing that though this journey is ending, they are embarking on a journey that will lead them to all joy and goodness. May those who mourn find comfort in the knowledge that they will one day be reunited. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Father, it has been a long while since we have been able to gather as one body in your presence to worship you in fellowship and community. We long for the time that we can gather again in our beloved St. Peter's and experience the joy and fellowship of shared worship in a shared space. We ask for trust and for patience, not only for ourselves, but for all worshipping communities, so that when the time is right, we can open our doors and once again, carefully and with the safety of all in our minds and hearts, come together again in love and fellowship.

Until that time, we thank you for the many opportunities you have granted us to worship in different ways and we ask that you make us always mindful that the church is not the building where worship happens but that the church lives in us as you live in us, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you are the vine, we are the branches. Help us to cling to you so that we may be nourished and grow fruitful in your service. Hear the prayers of your faithful followers. AMEN

Collect

Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.  
Give us grace to love one another  
and walk in the way of his commandments,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

**CP 613 We Lay Our Broken World**

1. We lay our broken world  
in sorrow at your feet,  
haunted by hunger, war, and fear,  
oppressed by power and hate.

2. Where human life seems less  
than profit, might, and pride:  
though to unite us all in you,  
you lived and loved and died.

3. We bring our broken hopes  
for lives of dignity;  
workless and overworked you love,  
and call us to be free.

4. We bring our broken loves,  
friends parted families torn;  
then in your life and death we see  
that love must be reborn.

5. We bring our broken selves,  
confused and closed and tired;  
then through your gift of healing grace  
new purpose is inspired.

6. Come fill us, Fire of God,  
our life and strength renew;  
find in us love and hope and trust,  
and lift us up to you.

**The Dismissal**

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me,  
and I in them, bear much fruit. *John 15.5*

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us  
what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**