

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021**

Entrance Hymn: We Walk by Faith (BB 495)

We walk by faith and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke
But we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
Nor follow where he trod;
Yet in his promise we rejoice
And cry "My Lord and God!"

Greeting

In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And with your spirit.

God have Mercy

You come to heal the contrite. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**
You come to call sinners. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You plead for us at the right hand of the Father. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
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 One, O God, almighty Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

Lord, Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer,
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

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.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty ever-living 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 life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 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 apostles 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 God
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord. Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord!
Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord. Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord!

Cry out in joy to the Lord, all peoples on earth, sing to the praise of God's name.
Proclaiming forever, "tremendous your deeds for us."

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord. Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord!

Leading your people safe through fire and water, bringing their souls to life.
We sing of your glory, your love is eternal.

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord. Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord!

Hearken to me as I sing my love of the Lord, who answers the prayer of my heart.
God leads me in safety, from death into life.

Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord. Let all the earth cry out in joy to the Lord!

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the First Letter of John

Children, let us not love 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 God 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 God whatever we ask, because we keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

And God's commandment is this: we should believe in the name of God's Chosen One, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as we have been commanded.

Those who keep God's commandments remain in God, and God in them, and the way we know that God remains in us is from the Spirit God gave us.

The Word of our God.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the vine, You are the branches
Live in me, as I live in you.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel John 15: 1-8

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and God who sent me is the vine grower. God takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does God 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 them, will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Those who do 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 God who sent me glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Good News of Salvation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (take a moment to reflect on the readings - what word or phrase stood out to you?)

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Addressing the congregation

Fr. Jack: I invite you to respond "We Do"
as a sign that we are committed, as a community,

to renewing our promise
to live our baptismal responsibilities,
and to support in one another,
the call of the Holy Spirit.

Speakers are addressing the assembly as a whole

Do you recognize God the Holy One – as author of the cosmos – who recreates us in the Divine image, and is Sovereign over all of creation, and all time?

I do.

Do you accept Jesus as the Word Made Flesh – who, One-in-Being with the God-of-All – redeemed us from our bondage to sin and death – and is the model for how we can live our lives?
I do.

As a follower of Jesus, do you pledge to pray daily, to meditate on the Word of God, to build community, to live a life marked by hope, and to celebrate the Sacraments with faith, especially the Eucharist?

I do.

Do you acknowledge your need for compassion and forgiveness – and your vocation to be compassionate and forgiving toward those who might offend you?

I do.

Do you commit yourself to a gospel spirit of poverty and detachment – to resist the spirit of consumerism and materialism – to live a life of generosity – and to exercise a preferential option for the poor?

I do.

Do you dedicate yourself to seek justice in your personal interaction with others, and in the world at large – to help others in their needs, and in their aspirations – to work to end oppression – and to reject evil?

I do.

Do you believe the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst, that the church is universal, that we are graced with a cloud of witnesses to the love of God, that sin is forgiven, that God's love for all of creation is un-ending, and that life is ever-lasting?

I do.

Fr. Jack: This is our faith. This is the faith of our Church. We are proud to profess this faith in Christ Jesus. And let the Church say:

Amen

Sprinkling Rite Song of Fire and Water (G 132)

If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in him.
Alleluia, alleluia!

We are fire and water, we are symbol and sign of grace,
We are the mystery, we are the image of God's own face.

If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in him.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Universal Intercessions

Response: Compassionate God, hear our prayer.
(Compassionate God, hear our prayer.)

For the grace of letting go: that God will help us to let go of those things to which we cling that obstruct the flow of life and love within us, so that the Spirit of God can flow through us and renew us, let us pray...

For all who are experiencing pruning through loss, transition, or change: that God will give them strength, guide them, and help them find courage, support, and hope through the community of believers, let us pray...

For all students as they enter into final exams: that God will give them strength and clarity of mind to manifest all that they have learned this year, for teachers and catechists, let us pray...

For peace in the troubled areas of the world: that through greater recognition of all that we share as part of the human family, we may work for the safety of children, the elderly, and the vulnerable in every land, let us pray...

For whom else shall we pray...

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts Spirit and Grace (BB 345)

Spirit and grace, here in this meal; you are the wind that breathes through the field.
Gather the wheat and form us in Christ. Come be our source and breath of Life.

In this bread, blessed broken and shared, Christ is our life, whose presence we bear.
Come, O Spirit, make your grace revealed in this holy meal.

Offertory Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.
Blessed be God forever.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

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**

The Eucharistic Prayer (if you are watching the video or listening to the audio, please follow along and participate with Fr. Jack; and continue with the Communion Reflection Song below. If you are using this at home with your family, continue with the Spiritual Eucharist below)

Spiritual Communion

*Invite the Family to **stand** for the Our Father. Although without a Priest, we cannot offer the Mystery of Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross, we can join with the Church throughout the world in offering a Spiritual Communion until such time as we can again participate in the great Sacrifice of the Mass.*

Our Father

Leader: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Family: 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.

Leader: Deliver us Lord we pray from every evil, and grant us peace in our days that by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Family: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign forever and ever.

Family: Amen.

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with us always.

Invite the family to kneel if practical. The following formula of prayers can be prayed together as a family, inviting Jesus spiritually into our hearts.

Leader: Together with the whole Church throughout the world, let us profess an Act of Faith in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist.

All: O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

In this faith I intend to live and die.

Amen.

Leader: Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus made the ultimate act of love by offering himself as expiation for our sins. Let us now make our own act of love as we pray:

All: O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

Leader: With a humble and contrite heart, we ask the Lord to come to us just as He would if we were able to receive the sacrament.

All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in 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. Amen.

Communion Song: We Are Many Parts (BB 584)

We are many parts, we are all on body, and the gifts we have we are given to share.

May the Spirit of Love make us one indeed;

one, the love that we share, one, the hope in despair, one, the cross that we bear.

God of all, we look to you, we would be your servants true,

Let us be your love to all the world.

We are many parts, we are all on body, and the gifts we have we are given to share.

May the Spirit of Love make us one indeed;

One, the love that we share, one, the hope in despair, one, the cross that we bear.

Communion Meditation World Peace Prayer (G523)

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts,

let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts,
let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Prayer after Communion:

Let us pray:

Graciously be present to 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

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Creator, and the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you forever.
Amen

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Sending: In the Day of the Lord (BB 576)

In the day of the Lord the sun will shine like the dawn of eternal day
All creation will rise to dance and sing the glory of the Lord!

And on that day will justice triumph, on that day will all be free;
Free from want, free from fear, free to live!

In the day of the Lord the sun will shine like the dawn of eternal day
All creation will rise to dance and sing the glory of the Lord!

Then shall the nations throng together to the mountains of the Lord;
They shall walk in the light of the Lord!

In the day of the Lord the sun will shine like the dawn of eternal day

All creation will rise to dance and sing the glory of the Lord!