



## The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

• Easter 5 A • May 7, 2023 •

### Opening Hymn 205

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for  
ever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all  
desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
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.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is  
everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know  
your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth,  
and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his  
steps in the way that leads to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

The first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles  
(7:55-60)

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into  
heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus  
standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he  
said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of  
Man standing at the right hand of God!" But  
they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all  
rushed together against him. Then they dragged  
him out of the city and began to stone him; and  
the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a  
young man named Saul. While they were  
stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive  
my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a  
loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against  
them." When he had said this, he died.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me  
never be put to shame; \* **deliver me in your  
righteousness.**

2 Incline your ear to me; \* **make haste to  
deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \* **for the  
sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

4 Take me out of the net that they have  
secretly set for me, \* **for you are my tower of  
strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \* **for  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of  
truth.**

15 My times are in your hand; \* **rescue me from  
the hand of my enemies, and from those who  
persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
\* **and in your loving-kindness save me."**

The second lesson is from the First Letter of  
**Peter** (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure,  
spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into  
salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the  
Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though  
rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in  
God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves  
be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy  
priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable  
to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in  
scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a  
cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever  
believes in him will not be put to shame." To you  
then who believe, he is precious; but for those  
who do not believe, "The stone that the builders  
rejected has become the very head of the  
corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble  
because they disobey the word, as they were  
destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a  
royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own  
people, in order that you may proclaim the  
mighty acts of him who called you out of  
darkness into his marvelous light. Once you  
were not a people, but now you are God's  
people; once you had not received mercy, but  
now you have received mercy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

The **Holy Gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (14:1-14)

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

Sr. Greta Ronningen

*Sermon Music*

*Here follows the Nicene Creed, all standing*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered**

**death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**

Empowered by the Lord's promise that he will do whatever we ask in his name, let us pray, saying: We ask this in Jesus name.

For the church of God and for its leaders, that our lives may be for the glory of God alone, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

For more vigorous efforts to unite all Christian peoples, lest factions and jealousies prevent the spread of the gospel, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

For all who exercise the ministry of preaching, that their words may be full of the Spirit and of wisdom, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

For those among us whose hearts are troubled and anxious, that they may find support in our care, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

For this local community, that our belief in God will be deepened by the word and sacrament we share, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

For those who serve our communities in this time of pandemic, and for those called to provide them spiritual counsel and direction, let us pray: **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

We pray for Jennifer and Sandra, **We ask this in Jesus' name.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

*Celebrant concludes*

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bring these and all our needs to you, filled with confidence in the power of Jesus' name. Hear us and answer our prayers in your great wisdom and love. We ask this through Christ who is our risen Lord now and forever. **Amen.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory Hymn 448 v 1,2, & 3**

**Prayer over the gifts:** Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving (EP A)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might** *(Repeat)* **Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest** *(Repeat)* **Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest** *(Repeat)*.

*Officiant*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, the perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*Silence is held, then...*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*All* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we receive these gifts. We know them to be sanctified by your Holy Spirit to be for your people

the Body of your Son, the Holy food of new and never ending life in him.

+Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this Holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Officiant* And now, we pray...

**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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

The Bread is broken.

*Officiant*

Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

*People*

**Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia**

The Officiant presents the bread with the following or similar words.

These are the holy gifts of God for us, the holy people of God.

So come, those who have been here often and those who have not been for not been here long: those who have much faith, and those who wish to have more: those who have tried to follow Christ, who, like me, have failed. Come, for it is Jesus who is inviting you.

### **Communion of the People**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Faithful God, in baptism and eucharist we are made one with you. May we who have shared in holy things always bear witness to your covenant. Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send**

**us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

*(The Officiant asks for God's blessing saying this or something similar.)*

May God give us Grace never to sell ourselves short; grace to risk something big for something

good; and Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything love.

- William Sloane Coffin

**Announcements**

Thanksgiving Prayer: We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

**Closing Hymn 460**

**Dismissal:** Sinners and servants who have been cleansed, healed and forgiven, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**