



# St. Jude's Episcopal Church

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others*

May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
8:00 am Morning Prayer

## Opening Hymn, *God is love, let heaven adore him* (v.1, 2)

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
3 God is Love; and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

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## Opening Sentence

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

## Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says to the people,*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together,*

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest says,*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People,*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.  
Alleluia.

## Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

## The Psalm *Psalms 22:24-30*

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

### The First Reading. Acts 8:26-40

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went

down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## **Canticle K A Song of Our Adoption**

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \* for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, \* that we should be holy and blameless before you.

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, \* according to the good pleasure of your will, To the praise of your glorious grace, \* that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, According to the riches of your grace \* which you have lavished upon us.

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, \* the mystery of your will,

According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, \* as a plan for the fullness of time,

To gather together all things in Christ, \* things in heaven and things on earth.

## **The Second Reading** *1 John 4:7-21*

A Reading from the First letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in

those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle Q** A Song of Christ's Goodness

*Anselm of Canterbury*

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; \* you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sins and our pride, \* tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.  
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, \*  
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; \*  
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; \* through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, \* your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; \*  
in your love and tenderness, remake us.

In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, \* for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

### **Third Reading.** *John 15:1-8*

A Reading from the Gospel of John.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sermon**           The Rev. Tracie Little

**Song of Reflection,** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love,* Smith

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People say together,*  
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.

### **The Prayers**

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*           **And also with you.**  
*Officiant*        Let us pray.  
*Officiant and People,*

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 for ever. Amen.

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### The Collect of the Day

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.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

We give you thanks for those who offer their best as leaders of your people – for our bishops, priests, and deacons. Pray for those who carry out your mission under their leadership.

Pray for God's church.

*Silence.*

We offer our prayers for the leaders of our nation – for our president, our governor, Congress, and the courts of this land. Give them courage and wisdom and a heart for justice.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

We pray for mercy for those who suffer from hunger, in poverty, in the wake of violent storms, after earthquakes. Sustain them in their struggles and give them hope. We are thankful for compassionate people who answer their call for help.

Pray for those who suffer around the world.

*Silence.*

We pray for those who are ill, for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying and those who stand beside them as they find their way home.

Pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.

*Silence.*

We pray for those who have died.

**Our hearts are full this day, Lord, as we embrace new life in you. We give you thanks for the gift of song and joyful spirits.**

## The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

We your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

For all your goodness and loving-kindness

To us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,

And all the blessings of this life;

But above all for your immeasurable love

In the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

Not only with our lips, but in our lives,

By giving up our selves to your service,

And by walking before you

In holiness and righteousness all our days;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son, that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

The Wisdom of God the Love of God  
and the Grace of God strengthen you  
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Be with you now  
And remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **Sending Out**

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
106 E. Elizabeth Street  
Fenton, MI 48430  
(810) 629-5681

[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com)  
Facebook: St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Daily Worship at 8 am on Facebook

Sunday Worship:  
8 am - Morning Prayer on Facebook  
10:30 am - Communion Service in Church Parking Lot  
(weather and COVID numbers permitting)