

Sunday, May 2, 2010  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

**FIRST READING: Acts 11:1–18**

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 148**

*Refrain: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
 praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
 sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
 sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
 and you waters a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 who commanded, and they <sup>1</sup> were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
 giving them a law that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away. R**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
 you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
 tempestuous wind, do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
 fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
 creeping things and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth <sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers <sup>1</sup> of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
 old and <sup>1</sup> young together. R**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! R**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
 He will dwell with them;  
 they will be his peoples,  
 and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: John 13:31–35**

The holy gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the glory of the resurrection dawn, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

You make all things new, O God. Bring unity to your divided body across the world. Breathe new life into churchwide leaders, synod staff, and our companion synod (*in...*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You have given us the repentance that leads to life, O God. Help us care tenderly for the planet we have damaged. Mend the scarred places of the earth, our home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You make your dwelling among mortals, O God. Bring peace to cities in turmoil; visit struggling villages with good weather and resources; make your loving presence known to all nations. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You promise to wipe away every tear from our eyes, O God. Comfort those overcome with grief, crying, and pain. Heal those who are ill (*especially*), and bring refugees to safety. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You command us to love one another, even as you have first loved us, O God. Teach us how to love all our neighbors, especially those we find hardest to love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You offer us a vision of the holy city, O God. We thank you for the vision of the saints who have gone before us (*especially Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, whom we commemorate today*) and all who now rest from their labors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

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