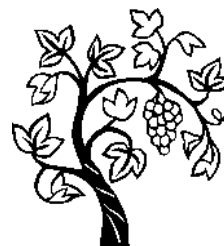




The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 27 & 28, 2024



17200 N. Del Webb Blvd.—Sun City, AZ
alcsuncity.org
623-974-2512

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 22

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

C: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: **For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

P: Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

C: **They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"**

HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

(see pg. 7)

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God,

C: **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

Marti Novak, flute

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music: © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”

(see pg. 8)

SERMON

Pastor Karl Guhn

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make a public affirmation of our baptism into Christ.

Our merciful God has called us and made us his own by water and the Word in baptism. With united hearts, I now ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God,

C: that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

We Welcome the New Members of ALC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: ... God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: and also with you.

You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERTORY

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

Christo Bell Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Risen One,

C: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND CHRIST'S WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. God of abundance,

C: with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: May Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

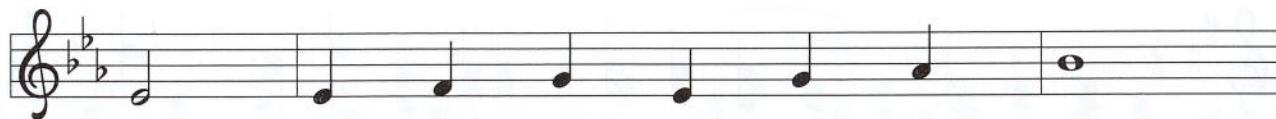
(see pg. 9)

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go forth in faith to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ as you invite and bless all in word and deed.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



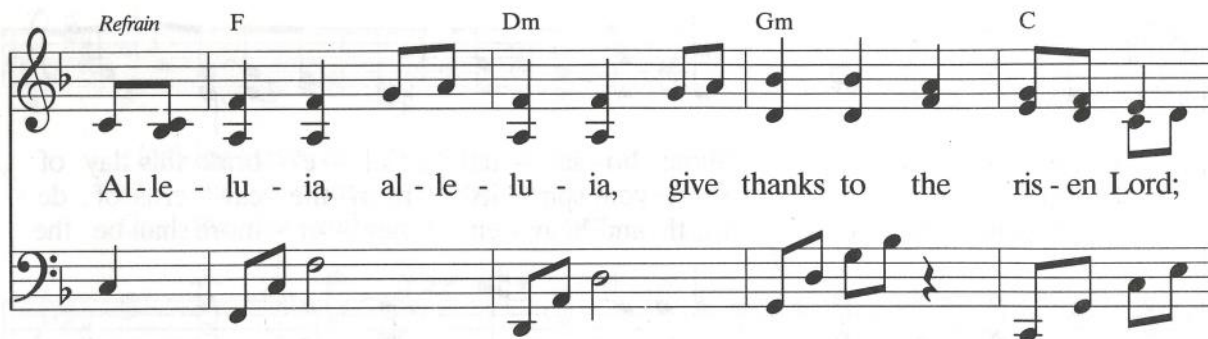
here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

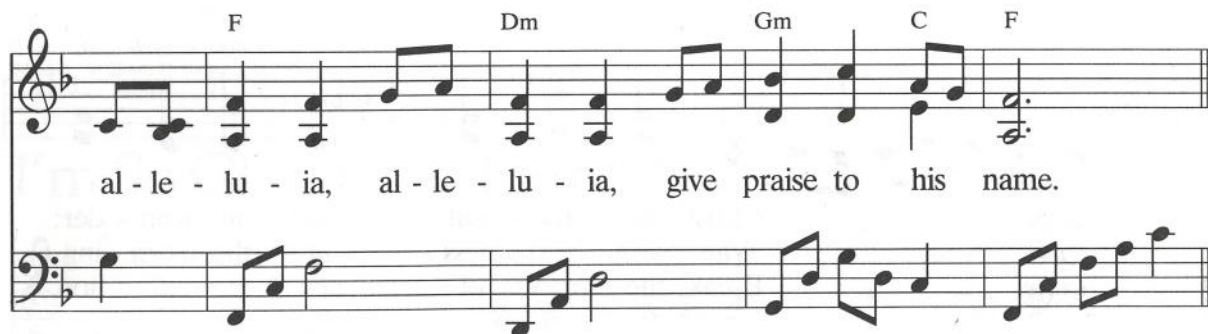
“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”

Refrain F Dm Gm C



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

F Dm Gm C F



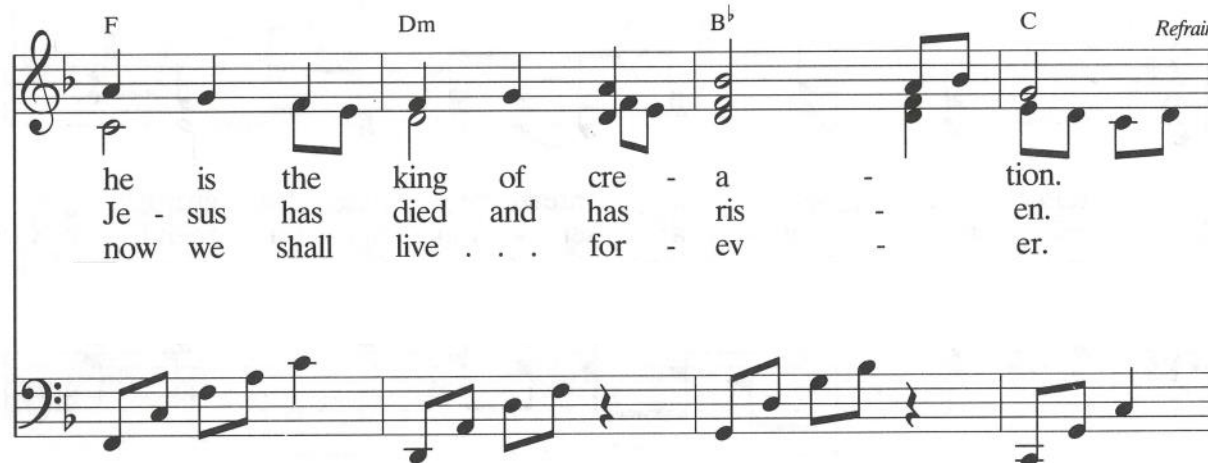
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

F Dm B^b C



1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;

F Dm B^b C *Refrain*



he is the king of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 now we shall live . . . for - ev - er.

“Let All Things Now Living”



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: “To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!”



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Our Mission is:

**To proclaim the love of Jesus Christ,
invite others to participate in our faith community,
and be a blessing to all in word and deed.**