

Zion Episcopal Church Manchester, Vermont
Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 28th, 2024 10 a.m.
Morning Prayer Rite II - Officiant Michael Giordano

PROCESSIONAL

God is Love

H 379

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.

OPENING SENTENCE

The Officiant says

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Invitatory and Psalter

VERSICLE

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.

INVITATORY

Venite

S 34

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

PSALM: 22:24-30

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

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

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the
LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in
worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

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

At the end of the Psalm is sung or said

***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

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.***

FIRST CANTICLE *The Song of Mary* ***Luke 1:46-55***

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

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.*

SECOND CANTICLE *The Song of Zechariah* **Luke 1:68-70**



1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to



rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then



have the pro-phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to



would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.



THIRD READING: John 15:1-8

A Reading from John.

Jesus said to his disciples, ¹I 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.***

HOMILY - Michael Giordano

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing.

***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

SALUTATION

Officiant The Lord with with you.
People *And also with you.*
Officiant Let us Pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People

*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.*

SUFFRAGES

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.*

FIRST COLLECT

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.***

SECOND COLLECT

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THIRD COLLECT

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

PRAYER FOR MISSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. ***Amen.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Gracious God, as you have promised to be attentive to what we ask, hear now our prayers for the world, for the church, and for ourselves.

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

Blessed Lord, your Spirit has been given to the church to bring to perfection your life and your love in the world. Strengthen us with the power to witness in your name, especially among those who have not heard of the life-changing love of Christ. In the Anglican Communion we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury and Michael our Presiding Bishop. In our diocese we pray for Shannon our bishop.

Silence

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

We pray for all who are confused by the competing values of the world, those who are bewildered by the many claims of right and wrong, of loyalty and kinship, of prejudice and division. We pray for all who seek to bring healing and peace to this world, and for those who live in places of strife and conflict, especially the people of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and Haiti.

Silence

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

We pray for our leaders and those who have responsibility for the common good. Inspire all of us to serve the human family with dignity, caring, and justice for all people.
Silence

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

We pray for all who suffer in their present circumstances and for those who are weary of life. Bring them renewal, refreshment, and restoration. In particular we pray for those on our parish prayer list: Allen; Anne; Anthony; Barry; Betsey; Betty; Blair; Bob C; Bob T; Cameron; Carolynn; Charles; Chloe; Chris; Cynthia; Danielle; Dawn; Donna; Elliot; Grady; Greg; Hugo; Jess; Jim S; John F; John K; John S; Katie; Kevin Beattie; Lois; Mabel, Mary; Megan; Michael and his wife Alison; Paxton; Perez; Phoebe; Rebecca; Regina; Ray; Rowan; Sooz; Stephanie; Sue; Suzanne; Susie; Tom; Will; those being held hostage in Gaza, *and those we remember now either silently or aloud...*
Silence

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

Loving God, we give thanks for all who have lived in you, have borne much fruit, and who now are in your greater presence. We pray for our loved ones departed, especially Kevin Bishop who recently passed away.
Silence

God of love, as you abide in us,
May we abide in you.

Officiant adds a concluding collect.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Officiant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

*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.*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Officiant and People

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.

CONCLUDING VERSICLE

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL In Christ there is no East or West **H 529**

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for three voices (1, 2, and 3) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has three vocal lines and a piano line. The second system has two vocal lines and a piano line. The third system has two vocal lines and a piano line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.