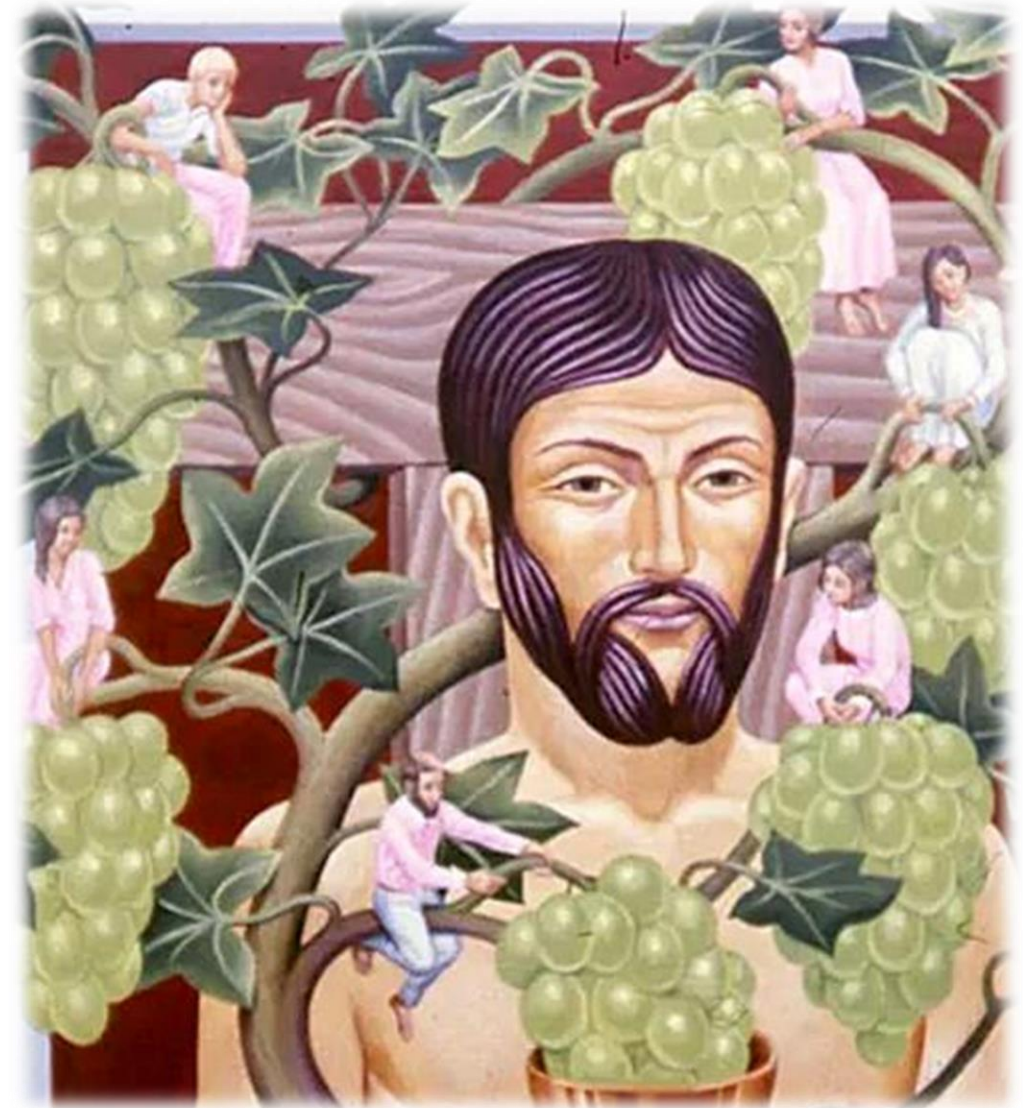


# St. Luke's Table

## FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

I am the vine,  
you are the branches,  
says the Lord.  
Those who abide in me,  
and I in them, bear much fruit.  
John 15.5



Christ the Vine, Koenig, Peter

# Welcome and Good Morning!

A Service of Morning Prayer from the Supplementary to the Book of Alternative Services

Artwork from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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The Gathering  
of the Community

Opening Hymn:

Here I Am Lord

Opening Hymn:

Here I Am Lord, (3 verses)

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**

**I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin,**

**My hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night,**

**I will make their darkness bright**

**Who will bear my light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my peoples pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send**



**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

## The Grace

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

**We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.**

**Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,**

**and your purpose in the week to come;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,  
As we turn our hearts and minds  
to worship almighty God,  
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

**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 neighbours 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.**

Merciful God,  
grant to us, your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord is our light and our life.

**O come, let us worship.**



Christ our Passover, (alternating verses)

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 also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

## The Collect of the Day

**Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the way,  
the truth, and the life.  
Give us grace to love one another  
and walk in the way of his commandments,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

# The Proclamation of the Word

## First Reading

Acts 8: 26-40



Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip  
British Museum

## Acts 8:26-40 (The Message)

### The Ethiopian Eunuch

26-28 Later God's angel spoke to Philip: "At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza." He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where he was minister in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

29-30 The Spirit told Philip, “Climb into the chariot.” Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

31-33 He answered, “How can I without some help?” and invited Philip into the chariot with him. The passage he was reading was this:

As a sheep led to slaughter,  
and quiet as a lamb being sheared,  
He was silent, saying nothing.

He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial.  
But who now can count his kin  
since he's been taken from the earth?

34-35 The eunuch said, "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?" Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him.



36-39 As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, “Here’s water. Why can’t I be baptized?” He ordered the chariot to stop. They both went down to the water, and Philip baptized him on the spot. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him. But he didn’t mind. He had what he’d come for and went on down the road as happy as he could be.

40 Philip showed up in Azotus and continued north, preaching the *Message* in all the villages along that route until he arrived at Caesarea.

Listen for the leading of the Spirit

**Thanks be to God**

Song of Mary, (alternating verses)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
for he has looked with favour 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.**

Psalm 22: 24-30: (alternating verses)

22-24 Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship,

and punctuate it with Hallelujahs:

**Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers;**

**give glory, you sons of Jacob;**

**adore him, you daughters of Israel.**

He has never let you down,  
never looked the other way  
when you were being kicked around.

**He has never wandered off to do his own thing;  
he has been right there, listening.**



25-26 Here in this great gathering for worship

I have discovered this praise-life.

And I'll do what I promised right here  
in front of the God-worshippers.

**Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table  
and eat their fill.**

**Everyone on the hunt for God  
is here, praising him.**

**“Live it up, from head to toe.  
Don't ever quit!”**

27-28 From the four corners of the earth  
people are coming to their senses,  
are running back to GOD.

**Long-lost families**

**are falling on their faces before him.**

**GOD has taken charge;**

**from now on he has the last word.**

29 All the power-mongers are before him  
—worshiping!

**All the poor and powerless, too  
—worshiping!**

Along with those who never got it together  
—worshiping!

**30-31 Our children and their children  
will get in on this  
As the word is passed along  
from parent to child.**

Babies not yet conceived  
will hear the good news—  
that God does what he says.

Second Reading:  
1 John 4: 7-21



God is Love, Record number: [57838]

1 John 4: 7-21, (The Message)

## God is Love

7-10 My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

11-12 My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love! 13-16 This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

17-18 God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.



19 We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

20-21 If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won’t love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can’t see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You’ve got to love both.

Listen for the Leading of the Spirit

**Thanks be to God**

## The Song of Simeon (alternating verses)

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**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.**

Gradual Hymn:

Abide With Me, (5 verses)

**Abide with me:**

**fast falls the eventide;**

**the darkness deepens;**

**Lord with me abide.**

**When other helpers fail,**

**and comforts flee,**

**help of the helpless, O abide with me.**




**2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim,  
its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see:  
O thou, who changest not,  
abide with me.**




**3. I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil  
the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide  
and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine,  
Lord, abide with me.**



**4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight,  
and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**



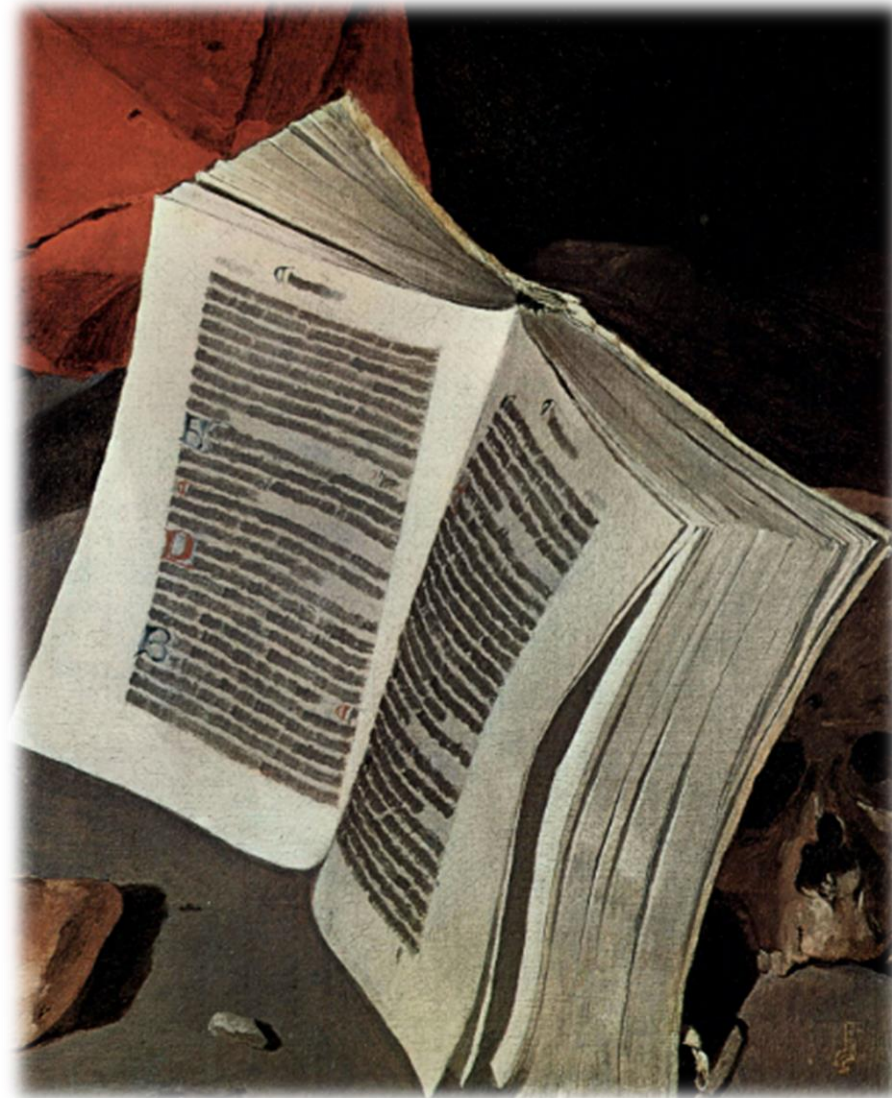
**5. Hold thou thy cross  
before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom,  
and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**





## The Good News

Gospel of Christ  
according to  
John 15: 1-8



Atonement of Jerome, detail  
Musee des Beaux-Arts, Genoble, France

## John 15 (The Message)

### The Vine and the Branches

15 1-3 “I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

4 “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5-8 “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

# Reflection



"I am the True Vine" Gravestone,  
St Quivox, Scotland

## The Creed

Let us confess our faith as we say,

**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.**



Prayers  
of the People



Jesus Mural of Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace,  
Record number: [56412]



## Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

**Almighty God,  
you have given us grace at this time  
with one accord to make our common supplications  
to you, and you have promised through  
your well-beloved Son that when two or three  
are gathered together you will hear their requests.**

**Fulfill now 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  
eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving,  
and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ  
our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## The Peace

We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn:

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds, (5 verses)

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows,  
heals our wounds,  
and drives away our fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest,**

**3. Dear name! The rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding place,  
my never failing treasury, filled  
with boundless stores of grace.**

**4. Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,  
my prophet, priest, and king,  
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought,  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.**



## 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.**

## Prayer of 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 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 ourselves 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 honour and glory throughout all ages.  
Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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.**

## Closing Prayer

**May the God of hope  
fill us all with joy and peace  
in believing through  
the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, (6 verses)

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear**

**Things I would ask him to tell me**

**if he were here**

**Scenes by the wayside tales of the sea**

**Stories of Jesus tell them to me**



**2. First let me hear how the children  
stood round his knee  
That I may know of his blessing  
resting on me  
Words full of kindness deeds full of grace  
Signs of the love found in Jesus' face**

**3. Tell me in words full of wonder  
how rolled the sea  
Tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee  
Jesus then doing His Father's will  
Ended the storm saying  
peace peace be still**

**4. Into the city I'd follow  
the children's band  
Waving a branch of the palm tree  
high in my hand  
Worshipping Jesus yes I would sing  
Loudest hosannas for he is king**

**5. Show me that scene in the garden  
of bitter pain  
And of the cross where my Saviour  
for me was slain  
And through the sadness help me to see  
How Jesus suffered for love of me**

**6. Gladly I'd hear of His rising  
out of the grave  
Living and strong and triumphant  
mighty to save  
And how he sends us all men to bring  
Stories of Jesus, Jesus their king**

Please respect Social Distancing when exiting.

Kindly exit from back to front.

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