

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Worship Aid for April 28th, 2024 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people.

We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.

You may reach the office at Nativity@NativityMN.org or 952-435-8687

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of Minnesota
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Jay Phelan, Associate Priest
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Katie Voegele, Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist
Natalie Watters, Family Ministry

Tamera Loerzel, Senior Warden
Andrea Thermos, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687
Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Leading Today's Worship
Presider: The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco
Preacher: The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco and Natalie Degener
Deacon: The Rev. Diane Luther
Lector: Henry Gabrio
Prayer Leader:
Eucharistic Minister: Marguerite Kirchhoff
Ushers:

Next Week: May 5th

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Lector | Michael Summerfield |
| Prayer Leader | |
| Eucharistic Minister | Phyllis Rowley |
| Usher (x2) | |

THE GREAT 50 DAYS OF EASTER

Easter is the primary feast of the church year, and such an important celebration that it doesn't just last one day – it continues for seven weeks, until the Feast of Pentecost (May 19 this year).

White is the liturgical color for the whole season, signifying purity, love, joy, and the Light of Christ.

Alleluia! We fasted from this expression of joy during Lent, and now Alleluia will fill our worship. **The Gloria** or other song of praise, near the beginning of our worship, also return after a Lenten hiatus.

Reading from Acts. During the Easter season, one of our scripture readings each Sunday is always from the Acts of the Apostles, drawing our attention to the establishment and growth of the church in the early days after Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension.

No General Confession. We spent the season of Lent in self-examination and repentance. Easter is an assurance that we are forgiven and made right with God, not through our own goodness but by the death and resurrection of Christ. You are encouraged to continue personal confession as part of your daily prayers. But as a community we will emphasize that we are "Easter People" by omitting the general confession.

PRELUDE

Charlotte McLendon

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,
 Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from you no secrets are hid:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and worthily magnify your holy Name;
 through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

GLORIA

(Hymnal S278)

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
 might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
 on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

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.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30

Antiphon:

Make known the sav - - - ing deeds that God has done.

From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 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!" *[Antiphon]*
- 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. *[Antiphon]*
- 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. *[Antiphon]*

THE SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Sing before and after the Gospel.

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

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The second staff continues the melody, also in 6/8 time, with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ____".

Words and Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.

SERMON

The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco and Natalie Degener

CONFIRMATION BLESSING

NICENE CREED

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

Presider and All:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Easter Season Prayers were written by Nativity's Youth Confirmation Class.

Deacon: Filled with the joy of the Easter Season, we offer prayers to God who raised Christ from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell among us.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: We pray for the Church throughout the world. We pray for the Church of Bangladesh. We pray for Michael Curry our Presiding Bishop and for our Bishop of Minnesota, Craig Loya. We pray for St Philip's Parish in Rice Lake and for all churches like Nativity that are engaging in Faithful Innovation.

God of Love,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We are thankful for all of creation, Mother Nature and all of her many wonders. Let us protect her as we protect the lives of others.

God of Abundance,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask for your guidance as we continue to go about Building our Future. May we listen closely for the Spirit's direction and respond to your will with faithfulness.

God of Hope,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are unwell: mentally, emotionally, or physically. Bring them your peace and healing.

We especially pray for...

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of Healing,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are dying. May they be assured their lives were well lived and be comforted at their holy hour.

[We pray especially for...]

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of compassion,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who have died and gone before us. May they be greeted by your angels and led into the Holy City of Eternal Life.

We pray especially for...

Are there others?

The People may add their own petitions

Leader: God of our faith,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: O Lord, Our God, Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." Grant us your peace. Stir our hearts' trust of your resurrection and inspire us to bring peace to others.

All: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life

Presider: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Hymnal S128)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Presider: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Presider: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN**

Presider: And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

Presider and All:

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

***All:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

(See Next Page)

INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prais - es! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. **Fine**

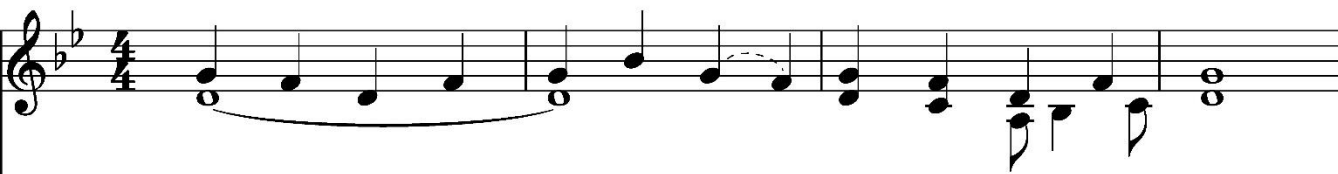
Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am

wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"

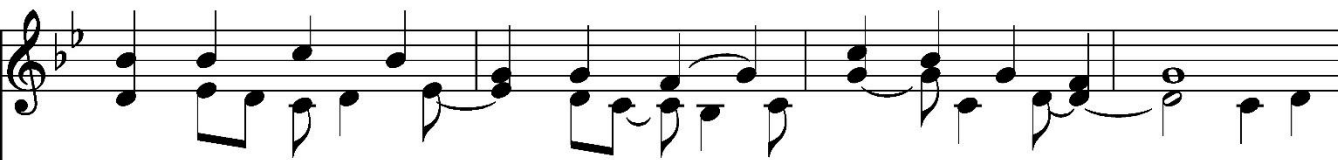
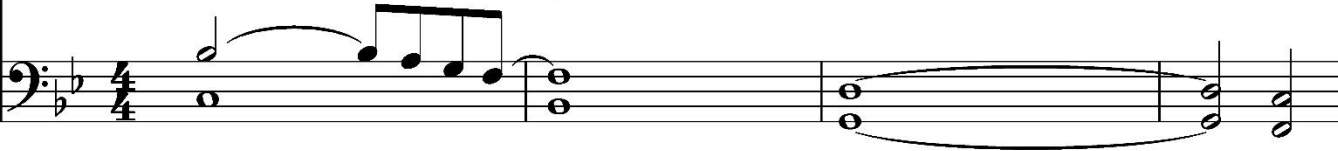
Words: South African. Music: *Halleluya! Pelo tso rona*, South African.

COMMUNION HYMN

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather



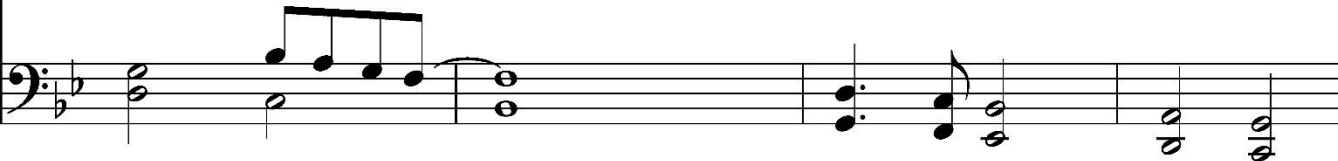
1. Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;



Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi (b. 20th c.); trans. Everett M. Stowe (b. 20th c.); phonetic transcription from the Japanese by I-to Loh (b. 1936). Music: Isao Koizumi (b. 1907).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and All:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue
 for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.**

Amen.

BLESSING

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Hymnal 657)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - mighty to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

DISMISSAL

Deacon:

Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

UPCOMING

Pentecost

May 19 – Wear reds and yellows!

Church Clean up Day

9:30am – May 11

Graduation Recognition Sunday

May 26

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

Choir Rehearsal

5-6pm – Tuesdays Bells

6:15-7:45pm – Tuesdays Vocal

Bible Study

10:30am – Mondays

Children's Worship and Response

During Sermon and Prayers

