



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



AMERICAN CHURCH
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

YEAR C

SEASONAL GREETING

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 glory; 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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 13:44-52

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

OR

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard.

You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹² You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER VERSES

(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)

Psalm 145 or 145:1-9

- ¹ I will magnify you, O God my King, *
and I will praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I give thanks to you, *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD, and most worthy to be praised; *
there is no end of his greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another, *
and shall declare your power.
- ⁵ As for me, I will be talking of the glorious splendor of your majesty, *
and of all your wondrous works.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your marvelous acts, *
and I also will tell of your greatness.
- ⁷ The remembrance of your abundant goodness shall they proclaim, *
and they shall sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, *
long-suffering, and of great kindness.

- ⁹ The LORD is loving to everyone, *
and his mercy is over all his works.
- (¹⁰ All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants give thanks to you.
- ¹¹ They speak of the glory of your kingdom *
and talk of your power,
- ¹² That your power may be known to the children of men, *
even the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, *
and your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all those who fall *
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *
and you give them their food in due season.
- ¹⁶ You open wide your hand, *
and fill all things living with plenteousness.
- ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways *
and merciful in all his works.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.
- ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him; *
he also will hear their cry and will help them.
- ²⁰ The LORD preserves all those who love him, *
but he will destroy all the ungodly.
- ²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; *
and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name for ever and ever.)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 19:1-9

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ² for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)

PROPER PREFACE

Easter

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 offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.