

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.*

*We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

APRIL 28, 2024

PRELUDE *Carla Silver*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, risen Christ,

For these waters where you make us new,

**Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.**

Clothe us with mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

**Cleanse our hearts.**

**Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN ELW #389 CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING**

**“Christ is alive” Let Christians sing!**

**The cross stands empty to the sky.**

**Let streets and homes with praises ring;**

**Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound**

**To distant years in Palestine,**

**But saving, healing, here and now**

**And touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift, and war,**

**Where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,**

**Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,**

**And lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,**

**Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,**

**And find the way, the life, the truth,**

**Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring**

**Good news to this and every age,**

**Till earth and sky and ocean ring**

**with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

**GREETING**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*Refrain* S184



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

## Congregation:

Leader:

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity all;

For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

That we may live out truth and justice and grace,

Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

For life and for love, for our work and our play

Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives in the water and the word;

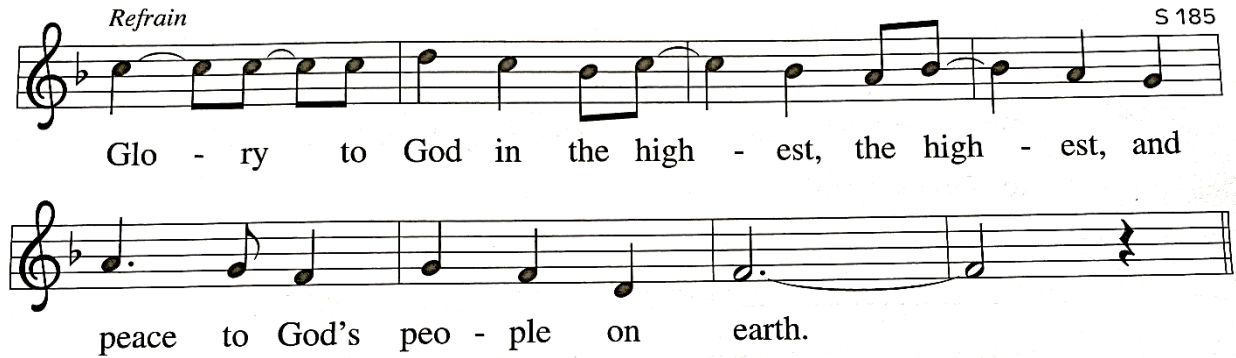
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Congregation:

*Refrain* S 185



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### Leader:

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen. **Refrain x 2**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, 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 Saviour  
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### WORD

#### ACTS 8:26-40

Then 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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

**I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

**let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

**all the families of nations shall bow before God.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

**who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

**all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,**

**shall kneel before the Lord.**

Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

**saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"**

## 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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

JOHN 15:1-8

"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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

**HYMN: ELW # 708 JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE**

*Refrain* Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love,  
Show Us How To Serve  
The Neighbours We Have From You.

Kneels At The Feet Of His Friends,  
Silently Washes Their Feet,  
Master Who Acts As A Slave To Them. *Refrain*

Neighbours Are Wealthy And Poor,  
Varied In Colour And Race,  
Neighbours Are Near And Far Away. *Refrain*

These Are The Ones We Will Serve,  
These Are The Ones We Will Love,  
All These Are Neighbours To Us And You. *Refrain*

Kneel At The Feet Of Our Friends,  
Silently Washing Their Feet,  
This Is The Way We Will Live With You. *Refrain*

#### **NICENE CREED**

**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 truly human.**

**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 worshipped 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 INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. We give thanks for the ministry of our Community Garden as the season begins. Inspire local efforts for food that feeds bodies and community that feeds the relationships for love of neighbour.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. Call all hearts and imaginations to works of compassion and healing. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, South Sudan, Israel, Palestine, and all places where hatred and violence rules. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty and are in need of healing. Today we remember especially all we name before you.....

*Pause      Ingrid, Jean*

Assure them of your promises.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labours. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

*The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life*

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,

out of silence and emptiness you created the heavens and the earth.

The oceans sing your praise. The rivers chant your glory.

Out of Abraham and Sarah's dead end, you made promises, you granted laughter,

you brought forth descendants to continue your story.

Out of the deathly power of oppression and slavery you

liberated your people and blessed them with water, bread, wine.

Out of their lifeless wandering from your justice and mercy  
you sent them prophets who sang poems that serenaded them back to you.  
In your great compassion for every tribe and nation, you sent Jesus,  
to bring everyone out of the tomb of hatred and sin  
and into the life of your love.

He fully embodied your compassion,  
lifting up the poor, raising up the lowly,  
forgiving the sinner, suffering and dying  
so that no one need suffer injustice and fear any more.

Out of the death of his own tomb,  
you raised him up so your story of love will not end.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body,  
given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together with one voice, we celebrate the paschal mystery of faith:

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

Send your Spirit to fill us with the joy of the resurrection.

Grant us hope beyond our comprehension.

Bless these gifts of bread and wine,  
so that the endless life and love of Jesus may dwell in us,  
and flow from us through acts of love for our neighbours.

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,  
we give you more praise than we can utter,  
as we await that great day when the feast of your love has no walls,  
no exceptions, no end,

when we gather with Christ, by the Spirit, and know life in you:  
love that cannot die,

love that enlivens our weary bones,  
love that exceeds every hope and dream,  
love, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

### **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.**

**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*

*"the body of Christ given for you"      "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**    *Emma Li and Phoebe Zhang*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

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

**Amen.**

### **HYMN: ELW # 826 THINE THE AMEN**

**Thine the amen thine the praise, Alleluias angels raise.**

**Thine the everlasting head, Thine the breaking of the bread.**

**Thine the glory, thine the story, thine the harvest then the cup.**

**Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.**

Thine the life eternally, thine the promise let there be.  
Thine the vision thine the tree, all the earth on bended knee.  
Gone the nailing, gone the railing, gone the pleading, gone the cry.  
Gone the sighing, gone the dying, What was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly, thine the yes, Thine the table, we the guest.  
Thine the mercy all from thee, Thine the glory yet to be.  
Then the ringing and the singing, then the end to all the war.  
Thine the living, thine the loving, evermore, evermore.

Thine the kingdom, thine the prize, Thine the wonderful surprise.  
Thine the banquet, then the praise, Then the justice of thy ways.  
Thine glory, thine the story, Then the welcome to the least.  
Then the wonder all increasing at thy feast, at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night, No more darkness, only light.  
Thine the river, thine the tree, Then the Lamb eternally.  
Then the holy, holy, holy celebration jubilee.  
Thine the splendour, thine the brightness, only thee, only thee.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Carla Silver*