

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

MAY 5, 2024

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

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 # 385 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our king!

To all the world glad news we bring:

***Refrain* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;

Death's mighty stone is rolled away;

Let all the earth rejoice and say: *Refrain*

Praise we in songs of victory

That love, that life, which cannot die,

And sing with hearts, uplifted high: *Refrain*

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

And sing today with one accord,

The life laid down, the life restored: *Refrain*

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.

S184

Refrain

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

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

KYRIE

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;

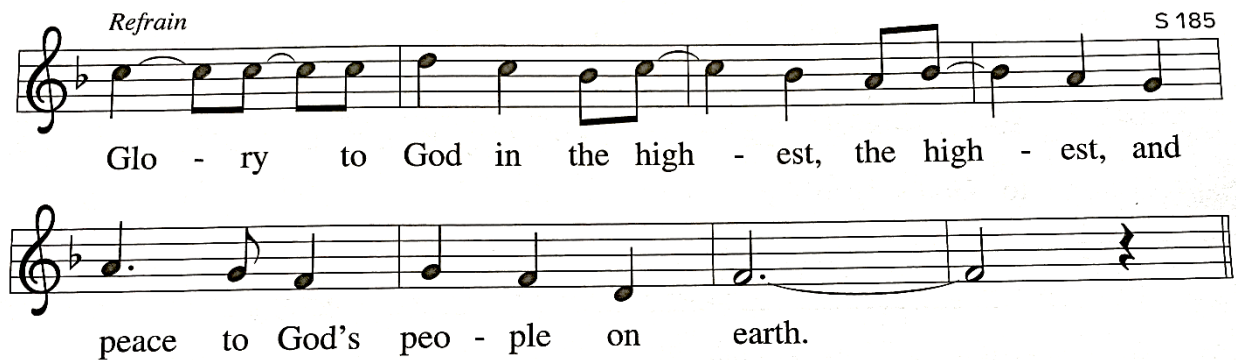
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

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

Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

ACTS 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

PSALM 98

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things.

Whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O Lord, you have made known your victory;

you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,

who comes to judge the earth.

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with equity.

1 JOHN 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

SERMON

HYMN: ELW # 167 NOW THE FEAST

Refrain Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom:
praise and glory for evermore!

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*

Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honour and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*

For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *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.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.

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

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. 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.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all.

Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. 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.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for Ingrid, Jean, and all in our thoughts and hearts this day.....

pause

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

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, and volunteers.

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

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet 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.

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 # 720 WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom

To live in the freedom of the city of God!

***Refrain* We are called to act with justice**

We are called to love tenderly

We are called to serve one another

To walk humbly with God

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So all hatred and blindness will be no more! *Refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love! *Refrain*

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 *Ethan Kwan*