



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH REDCLIFFE
SERVICE ORDER FOR 2ND May,
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



WELCOME TO WORSHIP:

Lord God,
you make the minds of the faithful
to be of one will.
Lead us to love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, among the changes of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: John 15:5

I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who remains
in me and I in him produces much fruit,
because you can do nothing without me.
**I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who remains
in me and I in him produces much fruit,
because you can do nothing without me.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SONG: In The Name Of God The Father (click [here](#))

**In the name of God the Father, for the glory of the Son,
in the power of the Spirit, now in faith we come.
We are gathered in Your presence as the people of the King
and You raise our hearts to heaven as we sing.**

**We lift up Your name, O God, You are worthy of our praise,
so great in power and glorious in grace, so high and holy
the mighty Three-in-One: in Your name we come.**

**We will call upon Your mercy as we celebrate Your grace,
and we'll bring our joys and troubles as we seek Your face.
We will share the peace You've given as we feast upon Your Word;
and You make us into light for all the world.**

**We lift up Your name, O God, You are worthy of our praise,
so great in power and glorious in grace, so high and holy the mighty Three-in-
One: in Your name we come.**

**Open our lips, open our lips, and we shall declare Your praises. Open our eyes,
open our eyes to you. Open our hearts, open our minds, we're trusting You to
change us, open our lives, let Jesus shine anew.**

**We lift up Your name, O God, You are worthy of our praise,
so great in power and glorious in grace, so high and holy
the mighty Three-in-One: in Your name we come.**

**We lift up Your name, O God, You are worthy of our praise,
so great in power and glorious in grace, so high and holy
the mighty Three-in-One: in Your name we come.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my
sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and
deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins,
and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your
dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us,
and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right
to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised
will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

INTROIT: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you^[a] I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!

All the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,

²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.

All the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!

All the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray that we may remain in Christ.
[silence]

Loving heavenly Father,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to reconcile the world to yourself.
Strengthen our faith,
so that we remain united with him
and bear the fruit of love.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 Philp and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. ³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited

Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁷[c] ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: I John 4:7-21 Love one another, as God loved us

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 The true vine and the fruitful branches

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the true vine
and making us your branches.

Keep us united to you
and help us to bear much fruit

Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,

from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

SONG: LHS 800 May We Be One (click [here](#))

**May we be one, bound in love for ever, growing close together day by day;
growing as God fills us with his life; we are joined in him, he makes us one.**

**May we be one, as our Father planned it. May the love of Jesus make us strong,
no one can harm us when he is near; he has brought us peace, he makes us one.**

**May we be one - Jesus' truth to bind us. With his body he unites us all;
dying our death he restores our life; living with us now he makes us one.**

**May we be one, sharing life together with the Father and his only Son.
Now we have life in this world of death; heaven has begun, he makes us one.
Heaven has begun, he makes us one.**

SERMON

SONG: LHS 164 Love Devine, All Loves Excelling (click [here](#))

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love
Thou art; visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all Thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect Love..**

**Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation, perfectly restored in Thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus said, 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' Let us now approach him with confidence.

Risen Lord, you came as a sacrifice for our sin. Give us faith to accept this act of love, so that we turn from all human efforts and drink in the atoning righteousness of your death and resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you are the true vine and we are the branches. By your Spirit, produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience in us for others to taste and enjoy. Keep us from hanging on to love for ourselves. Prune all selfishness from us and fill us with your love.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, keep Bishop John Henderson and District Bishop Paul Smith drawing guidance and love from you as they lead the church. Give them and all pastors compassionate hearts willing to serve your people with love.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, have mercy on your earth and supply its needs. Where people are hungry, give food. Where people are in distress, comfort them. Where people are in trouble, bring order and peace. And turn the whole world to you in faith, repentance and praise.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, focus our love on people we know with special needs. Heal those who are unwell particularly and others in need whom we now name silently in our hearts... (brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for hearing us and caring for us in all our needs. Constantly intercede for us before our heavenly Father, and open our eyes that we may see him through you. We ask all this in your holy name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BIBLE VERSE

John 15:5

I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who remains
in me and I in him produces much fruit,
because you can do nothing without me.

**I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who remains
in me and I in him produces much fruit,
because you can do nothing without me.**

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

Lord Jesus, thank you for never leaving us.
Help us to stay with you.
Produce your good fruit in our lives today.

**Lord Jesus, thank you for never leaving us.
Help us to stay with you.
Produce your good fruit in our lives today.**

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace, and love one another.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

SONG: LHS 437 Now Thank We All Our God (click [here](#))

**Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today**

**O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next**

**All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God Whom earth and heaven adore
For thus it was is now And shall be evermore.**

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading : Acts 8:26-40

LHS

- 217 O Christ, our true and only light* G5
- 221 Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word* G5
- 228 Lord Jesus Christ, the cause is Thine* G3
- 271 The gospel shows the Father's grace G5
- 833 We praise you, Lord, for Jesus Christ G5

AT

- 118 The Baptism Song
- 421 Born forever

Second reading: 1 John 4:7-21

LHS

- 334 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee* G3
- 344 Our God is love, and all His saints* G6
- 394 God is love; let heaven adore Him G9
- 783 Christ is the world's light G6
- 791 O love how deep, how broad, how high (esp v 1,2,6,7) G5
- 800 May we be one GS
- 853 A new commandment GS
- 859 Seek, O seek the Lord

AT

- 24 God's love
- 47 O, how I love Jesus
- 65 A new commandment
- 172 May we be one
- 177 Love one another
- 297 Let us talents and tongues employ (*post-communion*)
- 482 His love within the world
- 491 You call me to love

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

LHS

- 337 God from all eternity* (alt tune 276, G5)
- 519 While yet the morn is breaking* G4 (vv 1,6)
- 833 We praise you, Lord, for Jesus Christ G5 (*baptism*)
- 844 Sent out by God's blessing G6 (*holy communion*)

AT

- 297 Let us talents and tongues employ
- 304 Stay with me, I'll stay with you
- 311 Be still and know (v 2) (*see also extra verses based on this reading*)