



# Easter 5: April 28, 2024

## Gathering Hymn – What Wondrous Love is This *All stand as able*

*Unison*




1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll




caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my  
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing




soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
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*Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)*



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**Collect of the Day** *All stand as able*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Priest* 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.

**People** **Amen.**

**First Reading** - Acts 8:26-40 *All may be seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Acts

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.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23** *All remain seated, text for reference only*

My praise is of God in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship God.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord:  
"May your heart live for ever!"  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before the Lord.  
For kingship belongs to the Lord; the Lord rules over the nations.  
To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before God.  
My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has done.

**Second Reading – 1 John 4:7-21** *All remain seated.*

**Reader** A reading from the book of First John.

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 God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's 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 God's love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Lord has sent the Lord's 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 God 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 God 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 God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel – John 15:1-8** *All stand as able*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

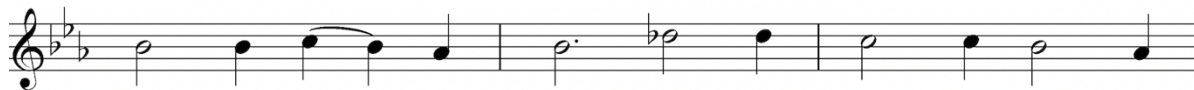
*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Offertory – Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life**



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

**Closing Hymn – I Love to Tell the Story** *All stand as able*



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for me;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,  
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.