

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Color: White

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[*Acts 8:26-40](#) (*Philip and the Ethiopian. A baptism*)

[Psalm 22:25-31](#) (*All the ends of the earth: remember and turn to the Lord*)

[1 John 4:7-21](#) (*Beloved, let us love one another*)

[John 15:1-8](#) (*Jesus is the vine*)

**During Eastertide a reading from Acts is substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible*

Themes: Baptism, Gospel, Salvation, Love/Great Commandment, Fruitfulness

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

Abide With Me (<i>EVENTIDE</i>)	John
Baptized in Water (<i>BUNESSAN</i>)	Acts
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship (<i>HOLY MANNA</i>)	Acts
Christ Is Alive (<i>TRURO</i>).....	Acts, 1 John
I Love to Tell the Story (<i>HANKEY</i>).....	Acts, 1 John
In Heavenly Love Abiding (<i>NYLAND</i>)	1 John
Jesus Loves Me, This I Know (<i>CHINA</i>)	1 John
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (<i>HYMN TO JOY</i>)	Psalms, 1 John
Let All the World In Every Corner Sing (<i>ALL THE WORLD</i>)	Psalms
Let Us Build a House [All Are Welcome] (<i>TWO OAKS</i>)	Acts
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (<i>BRIDEGROOM</i>).....	John
The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He (<i>LATHAM</i>)	1 John
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (<i>BEECHER; HYFRYDOL</i>)	1 John
Take Me to the Water (<i>TAKE ME TO THE WATER</i>)	Acts
Where Charity and Love Prevail (<i>CHRISTIAN LOVE; TWENTY-FOURTH; RESIGNATION</i>)	1 John
With Water Freely Flowing (<i>MERLE'S TUNE</i>)	Acts
Wonderful Words of Life (<i>WORDS OF LIFE</i>).....	Acts, John

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Antiphon: Let All the World – MD Psalms
Ralph Vaughan Williams/Craig Courtney, ed.
© 2010, Beckenhorst Press, CU1001
SATB, Piano 4-Hands

Christ Hath a Garden – M John
K. Lee Scott
© 1990, MorningStar Music, 50-9033
SATB, Organ

Christ Is the Vine – ME John
James Biery
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 50-8854
SAB, Piano, opt. B \flat or C-Inst., Cong. (avail. in 2-Part)

The Fruit of the Spirit – M 1 John, John
Dan Forrest
© 2007, Choristers Guild, CGA1093
SAB, Piano

Garden Hymn – M John
GARDEN HYMN/Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, arr.
© 1960, Lawson Gould/Alfred, LG00912
SATB, Tenor, a cappella

I Am the Vine – ME John
Allen Pote
© 2017, Hinshaw Music, HMC2508
SATB, Piano, opt. Flute

I've Just Come From the Fountain – M....Acts, 1 John
Negro Spiritual/André Thomas, arr.
© 2013, Lorenz Corp., 15/3076H
SATB divisi, a cappella

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song – ME John
BRIDEGROOM/John Ferguson, arr.
© 2000, GIA Publications, G-4948
SATB (or SB), Organ

Love Divine – M 1 John
Howard Goodall
© 2000, MorningStar Music, 56-0011
SATB Divisi, Keyboard, opt. Strings

Love Is Little – M 1 John
Shaker Song/Ron Barnett, arr.
© 2014, MorningStar Music, 50-7505
SATB, Medium Solo, Piano, Cello

Yes, Jesus Loves Me! – M 1 John
Tim Osiek, quoting *CHINA*
© 2020, Choristers Guild, CGA1634
SATB, Piano

– YOUTH and CHILDREN –

You are the Branches – ME John
Michael Jochen
© 1996, Choristers Guild, CGA755
Unison, 2- or 3-Part (Mixed), Keyboard,
opt. Guitar, Bass Guitar, Handbells, Percussion

Let All the World – M Psalms
Stan Pethel
© 2000, Lorenz Corp., 10/2229K
2-Part, Keyboard

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Hidden in the heart of things thou art nourishing seeds into sprouts,
buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness.*

– RABINDRANATH TAGORE, *Gitanjali*, 1910

*O blessed spring, where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoys each one to be a branch of this lifegiving Tree.*

– SUSAN PALO CHERWIEN, from *O Blessed Spring*, 1993

PRAYER OF INVITATION

(Inspired by Acts 8:26-40)

Oh God whose Love knows no limits,
Catch us off guard today.
Surprise us!
Stretch us.
Strengthen and sustain us.
Give us courage in the face of fear,
And call us forward in the way of love.

— Mary Alice Birdwhistell*

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PRAYER PRAISE

(Inspired by John 15:1-8)

One: Oh God, we turn our gaze toward you today.

All: *We remember the ways in which you have been faithfully abiding with us.*

One: And yet we confess the ways that we fall short of drawing near to you.

All: *We try to find fulfillment in so many places and ways, yet we always come up short.*

One: We forget that you are the true vine, the source of all that brings us life.

All: *You are what makes our joy complete and our lives abundant!*

One: We turn our gaze, once again, toward you today, asking that you would nourish and strength us for the journey ahead.

All: *You are the vine and we are the branches. May we be people who abide in you and whose lives are marked by the fruit of your Love.*

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We are to rejoice at the harvest, the growth and the provision of God – who provides the rain and the sun. But don't forget to plant the seeds and prune the vines: there will be no bread and no wine if you don't do some of the work yourself.

— MARTYN PERCY, "The Harvest"
in *The Bright Field*, Jim Cotter, ed., 2014

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Inspired by Acts 8:26-40)

God, we confess that far too often, we place limits on what You can do. We restrict Your work to particular people and places, forgetting that your Love knows no bounds. Forgive us when our vision of you is far too small.

Oh limitless God, boundary-breaking God, open wide our hearts and minds. Expand our imaginations, that there may be no limit to our prayers and our God-sized dreams.

In the name of the God who broke the very boundary of death itself and whose resurrection continues to bring about new life today, we pray. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Risen and abiding Lord, speak your cleansing word to us that we may grow in you as you grow in us. **Amen.**

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

— HENRY FRANCIS LYTE, "Abide With Me," 1847

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BENEDICTION

May God's love surround you,
May Christ's mercy astound you,
And may the Spirit abound in you,
So that you live in the fullness of the God
Who is with you always.
Amen.

* Thanks to Mary Alice Birdwhistell for contributing this week's liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor