

# Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

**Color:** White

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at [Oremus Bible Browser](#)]

[Acts 11:1-18](#) (*Peter's vision about unclean food; God's gift of life is for all*)

[Psalm 148](#) (*Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth*)

[Revelation 21:1-6](#) (*A new heaven and earth; a holy city; God's home among mortals*)

[John 13:31-35](#) (*A new commandment: love one another as I love you*)

**Themes:** God's Providence, Creation, Renewal, Home, Christian Love

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## 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.

[All Are Welcome](#) (TWO OAKS)..... Acts

[All Creatures of Our God and King](#) (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)..... Psalms

[Earth and All Stars](#) (EARTH AND ALL STARS)..... Psalms

[From All That Dwell Below the Skies](#) (DUKE STREET; LASST UNS ERFREUEN; YOUNG)..... Psalms

[Help Us Accept Each Other](#) (ACCEPTANCE; AURELIA)..... Acts, John

[In Christ There Is No East or West](#) (MCKEE; ST. PETER)..... Acts

[Jesu, Jesu](#) (CHEREPONI)..... Acts, John

[Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee](#) (HYMN TO JOY)..... Psalms

[Let All Things Now Living](#) (ASH GROVE)..... Psalms

[Live in Charity](#) (UBI CARITAS)..... John

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling](#) (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL)..... Acts, Revelation, John

[Of the Father's Love Begotten](#) (DIVINUM MYSTERIUM)..... Revelation

[Soon and Very Soon](#) (SOON AND VERY SOON)..... Revelation

[They'll Know We Are Christians](#) (ST. BRENDAN)..... John

# ANTHEMS

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

**And I Saw a New Heaven** – MD .....Revelation  
Edgar L. Bainton  
© 1956, Novello, 290342  
SATB, Organ

**Behold, the Tabernacle of God** – ME.....Revelation  
William Harris  
© 1952, RSCM/GIA Publications, G-4180  
SATB, Organ

**Cantemos al Señor (O Sing to the Lord)** – E.....Psalms  
*CANTEMOS AL SEÑOR*/Robert Hobby, arr.  
© 1994, MorningStar Music, 20-712  
Unison, Organ, 2 Trumpets, Percussion

**I Give You a New Commandment** – E..... John  
Peter Ashton  
© 1995, RSCM/GIA Publications, G-4331  
2-Part Mixed, Organ

**Jerusalem, My Happy Home** – E .....Revelation  
*LAND OF REST*/David Cherwien, arr.  
© 2002, MorningStar Music, 50-8183  
SSAA, Harp (or Piano), Oboe

**Joyful, Joyful** – MD ..... Psalm  
*HYMN TO JOY*/Steve Milloy, arr.  
© 2020, Oxford University Press, 9780193414617  
SAB, Piano

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** – M ..... John  
Ned Rorem  
© 1968, Boosey & Hawkes, Oct 5650  
SATB, a cappella

**Love One Another** – ME ..... John  
John L. Bell  
© 2000, GIA Publications, G-5158  
SATB, a cappella

**Marching to Zion** – MD .....Revelation  
*MARCHING TO ZION*/John Ferguson, arr.  
© 2000, MorningStar Music, 50-8111  
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass (4)

**A New Commandment** – E.....John, Communion  
Malcolm Archer  
© 1992, Kevin Mayhew, 9510948  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

**O Praise the Gracious Power** – M .....Psalms  
*ST. PETER*/Lloyd Larson, arr.  
© 2018, Fred Bock Music, BG2638  
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass, Percussion

-- Youth and Children --

**Lift Every Voice** – E ..... Acts  
Mark Wilson  
© 1990, Choristers Guild, CGA 514  
2-Part, Keyboard, opt. Handbells

**Yes, Jesus Loves Me!** – M ..... John  
Tim Osiek (quoting *CHINA*)  
© 2020, Choristers Guild, CGA 1634  
SATB, Piano

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Thou takest the pen and the lines dance. Thou takest the flute— and the notes shimmer. Thou takest the brush— and the colors sing. So all things have meaning and beauty in that space beyond time where Thou art. How, then, can I hold back anything from Thee.*

— DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD, *Markings*

*Tomorrow belongs to those of us who conceive of it as belonging to everyone;  
who lend the best of ourselves to it, and with joy.*

—AUDRE LORDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Acts 11)

Leader: John baptized with water, but we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

**People: Even the Gentiles.**

Leader: Nothing that the Lord has made is unclean.

**People: Even the outcasts, even the immigrant, even the prisoner.**

Leader: If God gave them the same gift,

**People: who are we to think we can stand in God's way?**

Leader: We know what it means to be the outsider;

**People: we know what rejection feels like.**

Leader: Nothing that the Lord has made is unclean;

**People: who are we to ignore the hospitality of God?**

Leader: When we hear this,

**All: Let us praise God.**

— Martha Dixon Kearse\*

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*Jesus, teach us not to shun: **what is of God in everyone.***

— COMMON PRAYER: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals  
Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Enuma Okoro

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## CHILDREN'S SERMON

(based on Acts 11)

Let's say you are having a party. It's not a birthday party—it's just a super fun party for no reason. You can invite as many people as you want to this party—there's plenty of room and so many fun things to do that everyone can have a good time. Your parents told you that you can invite your whole class at school if you want to. Got it? Give me a thumbs up if you understand the idea about the party.

Ok. Now. Let's also say that there are some kids in your class that you don't like very much. They don't seem to like you and they usually ignore you or stay away from you. They would not let you sit with them at lunch and you would not ask to sit with them anyway. Here's the question: what if you invite those kids to the party? What do you think would happen if you make sure they know how happy you are to see them at the party, if you make sure they feel welcome at your fantastic party? (Allow two answers)

This story today, about Peter, isn't just about what we eat, it's about who we invite to our table, who we invite to our party. It's about people being more important than rules. And it's about God inviting everyone we see to the party, wanting to make everyone feel safe and welcome. This is part of our job as people of faith—to make sure we know this about God, that God has invited everyone, and to make sure that when people come to our party, they feel safe and can have a good time. Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us welcome people the way God wants us to:

Lord, you have invited everyone to your party. Help us to be as good as you are at making sure everyone feels welcome at the party. Amen.

## DRAMATIC READING OF PSALM 148

Reader 1: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
Reader 2: from the heavenly host of angels;  
Reader 3: the very stones...  
Reader 1: Praise the Lord, sun and moon,  
Reader 2: stars and space,  
Reader 3: the very stones cry out...  
Reader 1: sea creatures and ocean depth,  
Reader 2: fruit trees and cedars,  
Reader 3: if we do not praise God...  
Reader 1: wild animals and birds,  
Reader 2: kings and princes and all rulers of the earth,  
Reader 3: if we do not praise God, the very stones will cry out...  
Reader 1: for at the word of God, all creation came to be;  
Reader 2: God beyond time, beyond infinity, is, was, and will be;  
Reader 3: the world cries out its praise in spring,  
Reader 1: the wind makes the trees to clap and dance.  
Reader 2: Let us sing the joy of creation;  
Reader 3: let us join the song of the world and sing praises to our God!

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Psalm 148)

Lord of all creation, Lord to whom the stars and sun sing praises, we give you thanks for the wonders of your universe. We come today to confess to you, our dear creator and God, that we have sung songs of praise for your creation, that we have said words professing the glory of all you have made, and we have not been good stewards of what you have given. We have overused our forests, we have stripped the mountains of their coal, we have deluged the streams and rivers with all manner of garbage and poison. We have not repented of this sin and we continue in it.

Help us, Lord, to value creation as you do. Help our praise to translate into action; help us to invest in change, to believe that our actions can renew and replenish the world. Help us to protect what has been given into our hands and help us to remember that nothing we see, nothing we hold, nothing we buy is truly ours. Help us to listen for the song of nature and to respect the need for creation to offer praise. Forgive us for our neglect, for our abuse, and lead us back into genuine praise, genuine gratitude that honors your creation as you would have us to do. Thank you for your word, your world, in the name of the one who walked with us, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

## RESPONSIVE READING ON JOHN 13:31-35

**Leader:** Jesus says to his disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

**People:** **And how will we love one another?**

**Leader:** "What have you seen me do?"

**People:** **We have seen you eat with those who are outcast.**

**Leader:** "Then you must eat with those who are outcast. What else have you seen?"

**People:** **We have seen you offer healing and comfort to those who are ill.**

**Leader:** "Then you must offer healing and comfort to those who are ill. What else have you seen?"

**People:** **We have seen you touch those who are considered unclean.**

**Leader:** "Then you must touch those who are considered unclean. What else have you seen?"

**People:** **We have seen you wash our feet.**

**Leader:** "Then you must wash each other's feet. And you must let your feet be washed by your brother or your sister. And you must let them care for you when you are ill. And you must go to lunch and visit the prison and welcome the stranger and offer justice when you are wrong. This is what it means to love."

**People:** **This is love.**

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*H – Hospitality. Practice hospitality in a world where too often strangers are feared, enemies are hated, and the "other" is shunned. Welcome guests and alien ideas with graciousness.*

— FREDERIC and MARY ANN BRUSSAT, from "*Alphabet of Spiritual Literacy*"  
[Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life](#)

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## BENEDICTION

Go now fearlessly into the world  
and may the risen Christ go with you,  
as both companion and guide.  
Let your love for one another be God's word  
to each other and every stranger that you meet. Amen.

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\* Thanks to Martha Dixon Kearse for contributing today's liturgies and prayers.

Warren Howell, editor