

**5-2-21**

**Processional Hymn** O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*1982 Hymnal #493*

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim and  
spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows  
cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and  
peace.

4 He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead  
receive, the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor  
believe.

5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues  
employ; ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye  
lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by  
saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

### **The Collect**

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. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles      *Acts 8:26-40*

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.” 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The psalm for this morning is 22:24-30. It can be found in your bulletin and in your prayer books on page 612. Let us read it responsively by half verse. *Psalm 22:24-30*

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

**I will perform my vows in the presence of those  
who worship him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

**"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 him.**

For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
**he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
**all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

My soul shall live for him; 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 he has done.**

A reading from the First letter of John

*1 John 4:16-21*

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 he 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 he 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 him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Hymn**

1982 Hymnal #209

**We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*John 15:1-8*

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Please stand or kneel or sit as you are able*

Let us pray to God on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people. *A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, you are vine and we are the branches; bring forth in us the good fruit of spiritual growth.

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

Grant that your holy Church may always abide in you. Make it fruitful in words of faith and hope, and deeds of love. Through its words and actions, graft many souls to yourself. We pray for our diocese, especially as we search for our next bishop. We pray for the diocese of the Dominican Republic.

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

Give to your persecuted servants the knowledge that through their faithful endurance, they will bear rich fruit that refreshes and nourishes many hearts.

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

Prune the hearts of our earthly rulers. Cut away the greed, pride, and lust for power that leads to hatred and violence. Build up all that enriches the lives of the poor and humble. Let the desire to do your Father's will abide in all our hearts and minds.

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

You have overcome the world. Be the joy and strength of all those who at home and abroad defend us against violence, sickness, and injustice. Protect and guide them. Prosper all they do that works for peace and health.

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

Look with kindness upon all who tend the land and feed the nations with the fruits of their labor. Make them wise and faithful stewards of your bounty. Grant sun and rain in due measure, and preserve your good land from blight, drought, flood, wind, and fire.

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

We pray on behalf of all whose needs of body, soul and mind are great. Especially we lift before you the needs of: Marge, Downs IV, Holden, Brian, Lou, and give strength to Chris who is going through treatment for Guillain-Barre syndrome. Grant

healing and recovery for all who have gone through surgery. Give peace and strength for those going through cancer treatments, especially Ginny, Victoria, Andres, Alex, Colleen, Jack, Connie, John, Douglas and Tom. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Bob, Timothy, Don, Barbara and Mike. Be near to all who are in hospice care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for fulfilling all your promises to those who died trusting in you. Comfort those who mourn. On that great day when we see you face to face, let us with perfect clarity see you also in the faces of our neighbors and friends. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:*

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are alive and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn** *Hail thou, once despised Jesus*

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Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!  
Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring.  
Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!  
By thy merit we find favor: life is given through thy Name

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid:  
by almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made.  
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood:  
opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there for ever to abide;  
all the heavenly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father's side.  
There for sinners thou art pleading: there thou dost our place  
prepare;  
ever for us interceding, till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power, and blessing thou art worthy to  
receive;  
highest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, all your noblest anthems raise;  
help to sing our Savior's merits, help to chant Emmanuel's  
praise!