



*A Liturgy of the Word Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*2 May 2021*



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

**The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.**

*Processional Hymn*

**O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his power and his love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might and sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

**O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,  
whom angels delight to worship above!  
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,  
in true adoration shall sing to your praise!**



*Robert Grant (1833)*

*Call to Worship*

We are gathered together as the family of God  
in our Father's presence  
to offer praise and thanksgiving  
to ask forgiveness of our sins  
to hear and receive God's holy Word  
to pray for the needs of the world



and to seek God's grace  
that through Jesus Christ our Lord  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to God's service.

**God of love,  
your Son invites us, gently but insistently,  
to follow him as faithful disciples.  
Open our minds to his light,  
make us respond to his love  
and entrust our whole being to him.  
May his kingdom grow in each of us  
and in the whole world,  
that he may lead us in hope  
to the joy you have prepared for us in your home.  
We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *Introductory Rite*

Alleluia! Christ is risen  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Praise the Lord:  
**Praise God, you servants of the Lord.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God's Name, now and forever.**

### *The Gloria*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**





with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### *Collect for Purity*

*Let us pray.*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

### *The Kyrie*

**Morena re utlwele bohloko  
Morena re utlwele bohloko**

**Kriste o re utlwele bohloko  
Kriste o re utlwele bohloko**

**Morena re utlwele bohloko  
Morena re utlwele bohloko**

### *The Penitence*

*We ask for forgiveness from the Lord for all the times when our shortcomings  
kept us from letting the light of Christ shine. In our lives*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your Name.**

### *Absolution*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





*The Collect*

**God of love,  
You sent your son into the world  
That we may abide in him:  
Graft us into his risen life  
That we may bear the fruit of love  
For you and one another'  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Word of God*

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21

*Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Open our hearts o Lord  
To listen to your words of your Son

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

*Gospel Reading*

John 15:1-8

*The Sermon*

**Fr Matthew Wright**

*Affirmation of Faith*

Let us declare our faith in God.

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

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;**





he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### *Prayers of Intercession*

Lord of love and life, your word says that if we claim to love you but hate a brother or sister we are, in fact, liars. Free us, Lord, from the pitfalls of bitterness, cynicism and suspicion. For you desire, above all, that our lives be governed by your law of love. Enable us then, gracious Lord, to fulfil this command to love; may your love be perfected in us and thereby may we better reflect your likeness.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We know, heavenly Father, that you create every human being in your image. Help us to recognise this inherent dignity in every person, Lord. We pray especially that you would enable us, by your Holy Spirit, to appreciate and respect those we regard as being different to us, whether of other cultures, races or classes. Grant us a desire for familiarity, and to learn from each other, so that we may be enriched in our spiritual lives.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that you are the true vine and that, in order to grow spiritually, we must abide in you at all times. We pray then Lord, help us cultivate a deeper, more intimate relationship with you. May you guard us against all that distracts our devotion toward you. Help us, Lord, to remind and encourage each other of the need to remain faithful to you. Finally, grant us the ability to quietly abide in you in all situations and circumstances.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord God, your people were slaves in a foreign land before you delivered them; your Son, our Lord Jesus, was a refugee at his birth, fleeing to Egypt in the midst of the danger in his own country. You have a heart, Lord, for the lost and persecuted. We pray therefore, Lord, for your blessing upon all foreigners living in South Africa and all refugees. We pray that you would give citizens of this country the understanding and compassion to see these as brothers and sisters. We pray for the social services which see to the needs of such people and ask that you grant them your peace.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We thank you, gracious Lord, for the gift of the Sacraments. We thank you for the gift of baptism, by virtue of which we become your beloved children; for the sacrament of Holy Communion, by which we are sustained and nourished, as members of your Son's Body. We thank you for your Church and ask your grace, as it seeks to faithfully administer the sacraments. We know Lord, in light of COVID, that many of your children are still unable to



attend services and partake of the sacraments. You are a God who transcends time and space, and so we pray especially for your blessing upon those who are housebound or unable to attend services; grant them an abiding sense of your presence, and your peace which passes all understanding.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we commit into your hands all who are ailing or ill. We know that the healing you offer is an ultimate healing in body, mind and spirit. Grant this healing, we pray Lord, to your servants and saints that they may enjoy the fullness of your salvation. For those who grieve, we ask your special hand of comfort and consolation to rest upon them. Assure them of your presence, your goodness, and your faithfulness, and guide them through their dark valley.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

### *Prayer for Offering*

God of love and provision, in deep gratitude for life and for all the blessings that come from you, we offer back to you some measure of what we have been given. Accept our offerings and use them and use us for the building up of your kingdom in this world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*As Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Lord, make us instruments of your love.

Where the darkness of loneliness reigns

**let us bring the light of friendship.**

Where the darkness of bitterness reigns

**let us bring the light of forgiveness.**

Where the darkness of hurt reigns

**let us bring the light of healing.**

Where the darkness of sadness reigns

**let us bring the light of joy.**

Where the darkness of doubt reigns

**let us bring the light of faith.**





Where the darkness of despair reigns  
**let us bring the light of hope.**

Where the darkness of hatred reigns  
**let us bring the light of love. Amen**

*Final Blessing*

Go and take the light of Christ with you  
that it may shine in the world.

Speak with your lives  
his message of hope and joy,  
and show by what you are and do  
that Christ is alive in you.

Let God's love enfold you and give you strength:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*Dismissal*

Go in peace and love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia**

*Recessional Hymn*

**1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great 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,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.**

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

**4. He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.**

**5. To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.**

*Giving*

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