



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Service of Racial Reconciliation and Healing Honoring the Ministry of our Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission

May 18th, 2025

9am

Prelude

Come Away to the Skies

George Shearing

Opening Hymn LEVAS 207

We Will Understand it Better By and By

1. We are of - ten tossed and driv'n On the rest - less
2. We are of - ten des - ti - tute Of the things that
3. Tri - als dark on ev - 'ry hand, And we can - not
4. Temp - ta - tions, hid - den snares Of - ten take us

sea of time. Som - ber skies and howl - ing tem - pests oft suc -
life de - mands. Want of food and want of shel - ter, thirst - y
un - der - stand, All the ways that God would lead us to that
un - a - wares. And our hearts are made to bleed for some

ceed a bright sun - shine. In that land of per - fect day, When the
hills and bar - ren lands. We are trust - ing in the Lord, And ac -
bless - ed Prom - ised Land. But he guides us with his eye And we'll
thought - less word or deed. And we won - der why the test When we

mists have rolled a - way, We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and
cord - ing to his Word, We will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and
fol - low till we die. For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and
try to do our best, But we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and

by. By and by when the morn - ing comes,

When the saints of God are gath - ered home, We will

tell the sto - ry how we've o - ver-come; For we'll

un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.

Text: Charles A. Tindley, 1851–1933
Tune: BY AND BY, 7 7 15 7 7 11 with refrain; Charles A. Tindley, 1851–1933; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. *Amen.*



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Invitation to a Liturgy of Healing

If you come
In certainty or in confusion,
In anger or in anguish,
This time is for us.

If you come
In silent suffering or hidden sorrow,
In pain or promise,
This time is for us.

If you come
And do not know why,
To be here is enough.
This time is for us.

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth,
Come now, Christ of the yearning tears,
Come now, Christ of the transforming touch,
This time is for us.

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I

could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148



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¹Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise God in the heights.

²Praise the Lord, all you angels; *
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; *
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
who commanded, and they were created.

⁶Who made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
giving them a law which shall not pass away.

Antiphon

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and flying birds;

Antiphon

¹¹Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
whose Name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Antiphon

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 14

Soon and Very Soon



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
- 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
- 3 No more dy - in' there,
- 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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The Gospel

John 13:31-35

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell

A Creed of Affirmation

Leader: We believe in God, Creator of the World and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

People: **We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

Leader: We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:
In the upholding of human dignity and community
In every expression of love, justice and reconciliation
In each act of self-giving on behalf of others
In the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough
In all responsible use of the earth's resources

People: **Glory to God on high; and on earth, peace**

Leader: We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action;
Through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith
Through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life
Through the search for security through military and economic forces
that threaten human existence
Through the abuse of technology, which endangers the earth and all Life upon it

People: **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; lord, have mercy.**

Leader: We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ
To take up the cross
To seek abundant life for all humanity
To struggle for peace with justice and freedom
To risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come

All: **Thy kingdom come, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

All are invited to stand, kneel, or sit for our prayers courage, healing, and reconciliation.

Lector Precious God, every day you set us in reality. We see so many things, yet pretend we do not see.

People **Guide us to see all people, even when they are different from us.**

Lector We live our lives of survival, self-preservation, and hard work. We grow tired.

People **Direct our living so that we might live for you first, and for your will and purpose.**

Lector In our churches we seek refuge from our toils. We seek comfort, reassurance, and affirmation.
We want to be at peace.

People **Stretch us when we feel uncomfortable or challenged when people come to worship with us who are not like us. Guide us in our journey to grow each day in our understanding of ourselves, of others, and the messages that shape us.**

Lector If we have failed in the past to see all people as your children and our equal sisters and brothers in you, help us to see that this can be a new beginning.

People **Grant us the gift of your courage that we might confront and overcome our fears and our prejudices. As Jesus died for us, let us die a little each day, to ourselves, that we may know new life in you and with one another.**

Lector Without pain there is no reconciliation, for we live in a world of sin.

People **May we live in your grace, knowing that it may take discomfort, pain, sacrifice, repentance, forgiveness, and healing. Guide us to acknowledge ugliness within us and strengthen us to trust your grace to live as your redeemed children in one church, by one faith and in one Baptism.**

Lector The evils of racism are still woven into the fabric of our lives.

People **Through your grace, empower us to overcome the forces that break community.**

Lector You have created us as your own family. You have called us together. The time is now for new beginnings.

People **May we do the work we must do in your church and world, while it is still day, before it is too late. May we never tire, nor turn our back, nor believe our work is ever done. For each day we must begin anew.**

The Celebrant adds the concluding collect

We have tried, O God, to make an offering to you. Walk beside us in our journeying and leave us not alone even to the devices of our minds and spirits, but be in us and about us forever and ever. Brood over us, cleansing and renewing and restoring, to the end that we may face the responsibilities that await us beyond this moment, with strength, with confidence, and with courage. **Amen**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

All

May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.

Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46

Offertory Anthem

He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love in with the world. You can donate by scanning or tapping the QR code or visiting [www.stjamescan.org/support-stjames](http://www.stjamesscan.org/support-stjames).



Presentation Hymn

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus LEVAS 255

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow - er

and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - - - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes in the Name of the

Lord, of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Grayson Warren Brown, *Mass for a Soulful People*, adapted Justin Oei
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Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. James' and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Communion

The sacrament is given to the people.

**Music at Communion Hymn 213
Hymn 577**

*Come away to the skies
God is love, and where true love is*

Middlebury
Ubi caritas (Murray)

The Post Communion Prayer

All

God of all humanity

You call us to bring about healing and wholeness for the whole world –
for women and men of all races and cultures and creeds.

Help us to respond to a world that is groaning under the weight
of injustice
and broken relationships.

Remind us that differences are a gift,

And interdependence a strength from the same creative God.

Strengthen us to resist the forces that encourage polarization and competition
rather than understanding and cooperation.

We know that your reign is not built on injustice and oppression,
but on the transformation of hearts –
new life, not just reordered life.

Teach us forgiveness, O God.

Bring us reconciliation.

Give us hope for the future.

We pray in Jesus' love. Amen.

The Blessing

Gracious God send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world, committing ourselves to racial healing, justice, and reconciliation. May our hearts be filled with empathy and grace to proclaim your redeeming love to all the world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Please remain standing in place for our final hymn.

Closing Hymn 599/LEVAS 1

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise
 days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,
 brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the
 have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our
 led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-

brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new
slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we
get thee; sha-dowed be - neath thy hand may we for

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

The Dismissal is given by the Deacon, and the People respond, 'Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!'

Postlude

Improvisation

Remain standing as the procession leaves the church, then be seated for the conclusion of the Postlude.

Participants in the Liturgy

Celebrant	The Rev. Pilar F. Padrón Parnell
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart
Organist/Choirmaster	Justin Oei
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Michael Larkin
Asst. Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Dr. Nick Kilkenny
Crucifer	Dave Palen
Lector & Eucharistic Minister	Debra Rose Brillati
Intercessor	Larry Webster
Ushers	Connie, Earl & Amy Tuttle

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