

Welcome to our meeting. *Our meetings are designed so that we may grow together spiritually in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual respect and honour, recognising that we are all on a journey. Doubts and questions are welcome. We trust in God's unconditional love.*

We begin *by sharing time together then we pray, sometimes sing, read the scriptures, there is a short message and discussion.*

We then *pray for one another and for what is on our hearts.*

We finish *by praying together the prayer Jesus taught.*

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

May 18, 2025

Year C, Revised Common Lectionary

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.

May you never give up praying.

When you pray, may you keep alert and be thankful.

Pray that together we may make the message of the mystery of Christ as clear as possible.

Amen

(Based on Colossians 3 and 4)

Song

Acts 11:1-18 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters 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."

Psalm 148

- ✧ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
- ✧ Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- ✧ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- ✧ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!
- ✧ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
- ✧ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- ✧ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
- ✧ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- ✧ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- ✧ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- ✧ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- ✧ Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- ✧ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
- ✧ his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ✧ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
- ✧ for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Revelation 21:1-6 Then 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; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; 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.

Together let us pray

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world:
forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will through
the Holy Spirit.

Song

John 13:31-35 When he 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.”

Let us pray (Psalm 19)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, Lord, my rock, and my redeemer. Amen

Short Message and discussion

Song

Listen carefully to these words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

- ✧ Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
- ✧ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,

your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine
upon you, and be gracious to
you; the LORD lift up his
countenance upon you, and give
you peace.

Please join us to find a place of prayer and rest in a busy week. From intimacy in prayer God is able to do many things. Wednesday at 8pm.

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