**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 15, 2022**



*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

*(John 13:35)*

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 15, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Because of his great love for us, God rich in mercy

**P: Made us alive with Christ**

L: For it is by grace we have been saved

**P: Through faith, not by works, lest we should boast**

L: He destroyed the dividing wall of hostility, abolishing the law

**P: He came and preached peace**

L: Consequently, we are no longer foreigners and aliens

**P: But fellow citizens with God’s people, members of God’s family**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “We Will Glorify” #156 (vv.1-4)

**We will glorify the King of kings**

**We will glorify the lamb**

**We will glorify the Lord of lords**

**Who is the great I Am**

**Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty**

**We will bow before His throne**

**We will worship Him in righteousness**

**We will worship Him alone**

**He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth**

**He is Lord of all who live**

**He is Lord above the universe**

**All praise to Him we give**

**Hallelujah to the King of kings**

**Hallelujah to the Lamb**

**Hallelujah to the Lord of lords**

**Who is the great I Am**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy 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. Remind us thou have called us to thy service, and made us worthy of our calling. Keep us steadfast in faith, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** 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.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, also grants in us that same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in the consolation of Christ. May our hearts be rekindled, our spirits grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 148

**P: 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! 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. 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.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “I Then Shall Live” #732 (vv.1-3)

**I then shall live as one who's been forgiven**

**I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid**

**I know my name is clear before my Father**

**I am His child and I am not afraid**

**So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother**

**The law of love I gladly will obey**

**I then shall live as one who's learned compassion**

**I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too**

**I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges**

**I'll dare to see another's point of view**

**And when relationships demand commitment**

**Then I'll be there to care and follow through**

**Your Kingdom come around and through and in me**

**Your power and glory, let them shine through me**

**Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor**

**And may Your living Kingdom come in me**

**The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor**

**And may You feed a hungry world through me**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 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 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.”

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** 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.”

**Sermon:** “Remember”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee” #749 (vv.1,4)

**Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face**

**Here would I touch and handle things unseen**

**Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace**

**And all my weariness upon you lean**

**Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear**

**The feast, though not the love, is past and done**

**Gone are the bread and wine, but you are here**

**Nearer than ever, still my shield and sun**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Soon and Very Soon” #289 (vv.1-4)

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah**

**We are going to see the King**

**\*Benediction**

L: May grace show you the love of God in your heart. May mercy remind you of God’s love in your spirit. May peace bind you in God’s love in your soul. Love one another with all your strength, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.