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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Call to Worship**

One: Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

**All: We long for abiding peace and friendship that renews our souls.**

One: Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

**All: We seek wisdom that endures and guidance for our journey.**

One: Jesus says, "Where I am, there you may be also."

**All: We come to encounter Christ. Let us worship our God!**

**Hymn #248** *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, in baptism you claim us as beloved children and set us apart as witnesses to your love. At times we forget we bear the mark of your grace and act as if you have no claim on our lives. You call us to the risky work of justice and peace, but we default to what is comfortable and safe. You call us to ministries of generosity and compassion, but we make little room in our busy lives for gestures of mercy beyond moments of spontaneous kindness. Wash us again with your grace and transform us by your Word, that we may proclaim your good news in word and deed. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 34:1-10

**1** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**2** My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

**3** O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

**4** I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

**5** Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**6** This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

**7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.  
9 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.  
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

**New Testament Reading:** I Peter 2:2-10

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—  
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and  
5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"

8 and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Homily** "Identity"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

**Affirmation of Faith** *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

**Anthem** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. William Cutter

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.  
O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.  
O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *March Solennelle from Suite No. 1*

Felix Borowski

**Remember in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Health concerns:** Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Luis Alvarez; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dave Askine; all those affected by Covid-19.

**Loss of loved one:** Doug Cisler (Brian Davis' brother-in-law, husband of Cheryl Davis Cisler)  
Tommy Poe (Faye Chapman family)