

in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)

PROPER PREFACE

Easter

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



SEASONAL GREETING

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 11:19-30

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

OR

Isaiah 45:11-13,18-19(20-25)

Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands? ¹² I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host. ¹³ I have stirred him up in righ-

teousness, and I will make all his ways level; he shall build my city and set my exiles free, not for price or reward,” says the LORD of hosts.

¹⁸ For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. ¹⁹ I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.

(²⁰ “Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. ²¹ Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

²² “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³ By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’ ²⁴ “Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. ²⁵ In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER VERSES

(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)

Psalm 33 or 33:1-8,18-21

¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous; *
it is fitting for the just to be thankful.

² Praise the LORD with the harp; *
sing praises unto him with the ten-stringed lute.

³ Sing unto him a new song; *
make skillful melody and cry aloud with joy.

⁴ For the word of the LORD is true, *
and all his works are faithful.

⁵ He loves righteousness and true judgment; *
the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *
and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together, as in a heap, *
and lays up the deep, as in a treasure house.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; *

stand in awe of him, all you that dwell in the world.

(⁹ For he spoke, and it was done; *
he commanded and it stood fast.

¹⁰ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to naught; *
he makes the devices of the peoples to be of no effect, and casts out the counsels of princes.

¹¹ The counsel of the LORD shall endure for ever, *
and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, *
and blessed are the people he has chosen for himself to be his inheritance.

¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven and beholds all the children of men; *
from the habitation of his dwelling he considers all those who dwell on the earth.

¹⁴ He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.

¹⁵ There is no king who can be saved by a mighty host; *
neither is any mighty man delivered by great strength.

¹⁶ A horse is considered a vain hope to save a man; *
neither shall it deliver anyone by its great strength.

¹⁷ Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
and upon those who put their trust in his mercy,)

¹⁸ To deliver their soul from death, *
and to feed them in the time of famine.

¹⁹ Our soul has patiently waited for the LORD, *
for he is our help and our shield.

²⁰ Our heart shall rejoice in him, *
because we have hoped in his holy Name.

²¹ Let your merciful kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides