Simple holy communion and readings for May 2nd 2021

*Welcome*

O Lord open our lips **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise**

The night has passed and the day lies open before us: **let us pray with one heart and mind**

A moment’s quiet

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day: **so may the light of your presence O God, fill our hearts with love for you, and one another, now and forever. Amen.**

*Confession*

We pause for a moment to bring to mind and heart those things for which we are sorry, and in which our community and nation has fallen short…..

And we ask God..

Lord, have mercy, **Christ have mercy**, Lord have mercy.

*Absolution*

*Gloria*

*Prayer for the day…*

*Readings*

*Homily*

*Prayers*

*Peace*

*Communion Prayer*

The Lord is here...**God’s spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts ...**we lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give thanks and praise**

Praise to the God of power & might; praise to the God of truth & light

**Praise to the God of fire & sun, God of the dawn & the day that’s done**

Praise to the God of work & leisure, praise to the God of joy & pleasure

**Praise to the God of wind & rain**; **praise to the God who shares our pain**

Praise to the God of tide & season; praise to the God of feeling & reason

**Praise to the God of wheat & vine; praise to the God of bread & wine**

**To you be glory and praise O God**

We pray to you

**Jesus Christ child of earth; sign of our eternal worth -**

‘Do this to remember me’ he said

‘Drink this wine and eat this bread’

My body broken and my blood shed

**For you, for many to be fed**

Holy spirit, gentle power,

Grace our tables, bless this hour

**So we may know a strong communion,**

**Comfort, strength and perfect union**

With your beloved people everywhere

And Christ our Saviour, Love so fair.

Creator God, we give you praise

**To you our yearning spirits we raise;**

**And our hearts in love to you we lift,**

Offering ourselves, talent, skill and gift.

**Accept us, use us to proclaim**

**The glory of our Saviour’s name.**

**Our Father….**

The Gifts of God for the People of God

**Praise to God, our creator**

**Praise to Christ our redeemer**

**Praise to the Spirit our sustainer**

**For one another and all these good gifts. Amen.**

*Post communion prayer*

*Blessing*

*Closing responses*

In work and worship

**God is with us**

Gathered and scattered

**God is with us**

Now and always

**God is with us. Amen.**

**Collect**

Risen Christ,

your wounds declare your love for the world

and the wonder of your risen life:

give us compassion and courage

to risk ourselves for those we serve,

to the glory of God the Father.

**Readings**

***Acts 8:26-40***

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the southto the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
   and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
     so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
   Who can describe his generation?
     For his life is taken away from the earth.’
The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philipbaptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

***Psalm 22: 25-end***

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; ♦︎
   I will perform my vows
      in the presence of those that fear you.
  The poor shall eat and be satisfied; ♦︎
   those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
      their hearts shall live for ever.
  All the ends of the earth
      shall remember and turn to the Lord, ♦︎
   and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
  For the kingdom is the Lord’s ♦︎
   and he rules over the nations.
  How can those who sleep in the earth
      bow down in worship, ♦︎
   or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
  He has saved my life for himself;
      my descendants shall serve him; ♦︎
   this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
  They shall come and make known his salvation,
      to a people yet unborn, ♦︎
   declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

## Gospel reading

## *John 15:1-8*

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunesto make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.