



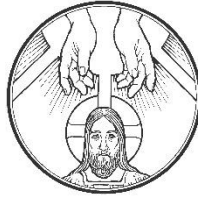
ABOUT THE PROPERs

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025



“Because He Lives”

We Live Lives of Lavish Love

Jesus saved us from eternal death in hell and won for us an eternity in paradise. What shall we do to thank him? This week we see that Jesus asks for just one thing—love. He asks us, in every interaction we have with others, to demonstrate the same selfless love that he has shown to us. That is how we thank him. Fortunately, Jesus doesn’t just ask us to *show* love. Jesus *empowers* us to show love. The same divine power which raised Jesus from the dead now raises us up to a new and better life, enabling us to set aside our natural selfishness and self-glorification and instead live in a more excellent way. Like Christ, we strive to do everything for the benefit of others. Because he lives, we live lives of lavish love.

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

God overcomes Peter's self-glorification by teaching Peter that God does not show favoritism but rather selfless love to both Jew and Gentile.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Though the many members of the body of Christ are blessed with various gifts, yet the heart of its unity is the love of Christ. The defining mark of Christians is not the spiritual gifts that they possess, but it is the lavish love that is demonstrated as they use those gifts for the benefit of others.

Gospel³

John 13:31-35

Having come from God and now preparing to return to God, Jesus gives his disciples the command to love one another. Disciples of Jesus are marked by their love for each other. For it is a reflection of the same love our now glorified Savior has for us. This lesson is closely linked with next week's Gospel Lesson, where “love” is expressed through obedience to Jesus' teaching.

Psalm of the Day⁴

Psalm 145 A

“I Will Praise Your Name Forever”

The Church sings Psalm 145 in services that celebrate God's power and love demonstrated among his people. The psalm is an alphabetic acrostic, each verse beginning with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 145 is a psalm of thanks for the kingdom of Christ. It commends the exalted activity of praising God and glorifying his power and kingdom. The kingdom and power of Christ are hidden under the cross, where he helped the fallen, called the needy to himself, made sinners godly, and brought the dead to life. Who would know that if it were not preached, taught, and confessed? Yes, Christ also gives food to all, heeds the call of believers, does what they desire, and protects them.”

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:16

“We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

Prayer of the Day

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

467 "With High Delight Let Us Unite" (Georg Vetter, 1536-99)

Church Year Season ¹

Easter

After forty days of repentance and prayer, the Church bursts forth in jubilant praise at the Resurrection of our Lord. The alleluias and glorias which were muted for Lent ring out again as the Bride of Christ welcomes her Bridegroom back from the dead. Easter is as the pinnacle of the Church Year, the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

Colors & Symbolism

White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Traditions & Customs

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter. It was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin and death (Ex 12; 1 Cor 6:6-8). The candle is lit for services during Easter to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among us. The candle is also lit for Baptisms and funerals, reminding us of our resurrection to eternal life.

Nain Paraments

Easter

Superfronatal: Alleluia is a taken from a Hebrew word which means, "Praise the LORD." It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus' death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God's children, the branches (John 15:5).

¹ Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year A". Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year B". Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of "Planning Christian Worship: Year C". Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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