

Liturgy of the Word
The Fifth Saturday of Easter
Facebook live or www.redeemersayre.org
May 1, 2021

Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect for Purity (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your 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; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

First Reading:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to 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 Philip baptized 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (22:24-30)

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: ***
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 **For kingship belongs to the LORD; ***
he rules over the nations.

- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 **My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading:

A reading from the First letter of John (4:7-21)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1-8)

(Glory to you, Lord Christ).

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you

wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed (BCP p. 358)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People (BCP p. 359)

As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, we seek to abide in the Spirit of love, and bring our prayers to God, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our bishop, that our faith may deepen, our hope be strengthened, and our love abound, as we draw our life from the Risen Christ. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our congregation and for Melinda our Rector. Everliving God, strengthen and sustain Melinda, that with patience and understanding she may love and care for your people; and grant that together we may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you our gifts and talents. We also pray that we who are known by Christ, may gladly welcome into this flock all who will listen to the Lord's voice and that the Spirit will help us to bear witness to the good news of God's love, in deeds of justice, and service to others. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the grace of letting go, that God will help us to let go of those things which need to be pruned, so that life and love may flow through us as signs of God's love. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those places overwhelmed by the Corvid virus, particularly India and Brazil, that God will slow the spread, give strength to all caregivers, and open opportunities for vaccinations. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For an end to violence in our cities and communities, that God will turn hearts from destructive deeds, open pathways for dialogue, and protect the innocent from harm. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who are in need of our prayers, remembering especially *Emily Cole Skjöld, Sid Ranck, Jessica Morrow, Gary Zello, Teresa, Megan, Jennifer Taylor, Jane Eldridge, Jared Watson, Jeff Watson, Janet Maier, Becky Fiorello, Erica & family, Ben Viglietta, Colleen Marshall, Jim Shay, John Hinsman, Stefan, the staff at the Robert Packer Hospital and the Guthrie clinic*, and give strength and energy to those who serve and treat them, that Christ will renew the gift of life within them, and strengthen them in God's love. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died, remembering especially John Kepner, Andrew Zeller, Michelle Brennan, Ray Elder and Thomas Holland, that they may abide in the love of God for ever. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. *Alleluia! To you, O Lord, we give praise and glory.*

Celebrant Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace so that loving one another we may walk in the

way that leads to eternal life. Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. *Amen.*

The Peace (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing (BCP P. 366)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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