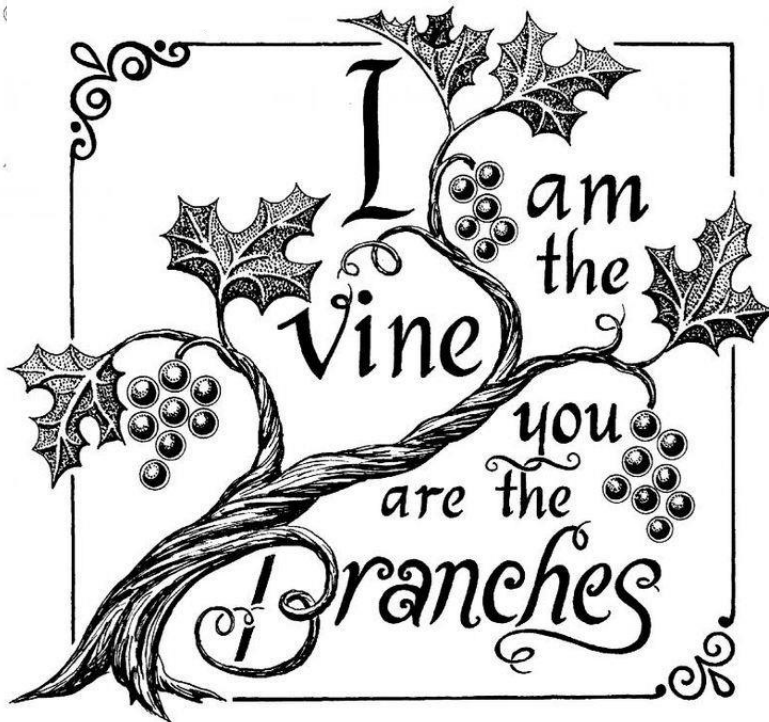


Service of the Word of God
and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
Rite II



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28th, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Broadcast Live on Facebook

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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The Very Rev. Scott A. Garno, Rector
The Rev. Justine Guernsey, Deacon
The Rev. Candace Palumbo, Deacon

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The people stand.

Processional Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story”

Celebration Hymnal #444

Verse 1

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above
Of Jesus and His glory
of Jesus and His love
I love to tell the story
because I know 'tis true
It satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do

Chorus

I love to tell the story
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and His love

Verse 2

I love to tell the story
more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams
I love to tell the story
it did so much for me

Acclamation

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant

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.

The Gloria

Hymnal 1982 #S278

**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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Acts 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

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.

The Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

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

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand for the Gospel Procession and Proclamation

Gospel Hymn *"In Christ there is no East or West."* vs 1-2

Hymnal 1982 # 529

Verse 1

In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

Verse 2

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn “*In Christ there is no East or West.*” vs 3

Hymnal 1982 # 529

Verse 3

In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

The people sit.

The Sermon

The Rev. Justine Guernsey

The people stand.

The people stand.

The Nicene Creed

**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 people stand or kneel.

Prayers of the People Form 3

Please include these in your prayers; our AA Groups, the students and teachers of our St. Stephen's PreK Academy, the students and leaders in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, our sister church, St. Andre in Flande, Haiti, and Fr. Deravil, his family, and all the people of Haiti., for Kama Cooper, the Malchow and Bianchine families, for Nancy and Herb, Ronan and Matthew, Charlene and Phil, Laura, Matt, Henry, and Ethan., for Linda, Grace, Beth, Nicholas, Gloria Jean, Leon, Anne, Johnisha, Kevin, Stephanie, Arora, Julia, Rev. Susan, and Warrant Officer Class 2 Gregory Roth

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Scott, Susan, & Justine.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray especially for

those whose names are listed on the insert.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy, especially Carol Bryant and Dorothy Kemple.

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Parish Prayer for Mission

Deacon and People

Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us fulfill our mission, to worship you in a loving community, to support people on their Christian Journey, and to empower disciples for service, so that we can bring Jesus to each other and to the world.

Amen.

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strength us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

The people stand.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people sit.

Announcements

———— The Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament ————

Offertory Hymn

St. Stephen's Choir Anthem

The people stand.

The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

As a sign of our thanksgiving the Officiant and people pray responsively

Officiant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The people stand or kneel.

The Officiant [spreads a corporal and then] reverently takes the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle or aumbry and places it on the Altar.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer

People and Officiant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Facing the people, the Officiant says the following invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

The Officiant receives the Sacrament and then distributes it to the people.

Communion Hymn “Freely, Freely ”

Celebration Hymnal # 436

Verse 1

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to

Go in My name

And because you believe

Others will know that I live

Verse 2

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name

In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name

And in Jesus' name I come to you

To share His pow'r as He told me to

Chorus

Chorus

He said freely freely

You have received

Freely freely give

Spiritual Communion Prayer

For those unable to worship in person with us today, we include this prayer

In Union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and my body with the earnest desire that I may continually be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you with my own faith community, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

(Spiritual Communion Prayer adapted from the Armed Forces Prayer Book, 1951)

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

The Post Communion Prayer

Officiant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn “We know that Christ is raised”

Hymnal 1982 #296

Verse 1

We know that Christ is raised
and dies no more.
Embraced by death
he broke its fearful hold;
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia!

Verse 2

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia!

Verse 3

The Father’s splendor
clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit’s power shakes
the Church of God.
Baptized we live with God
the Three in One.
Alleluia!

Verse 4

A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ’s new body
takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored
and whole will sing:
Alleluia! Amen.

The Dismissal

The people are dismissed with these, or similar, words

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**