

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Procession Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. **Hymn 182**
Truro

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II **BCP pg. 355**

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

Celebrant 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 **S-278**

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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 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.

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

The Psalm **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.

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

Sequence In Christ there is no East or West **Hymn 529**
McKee

The Gospel **John 15:1-8**

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon **Fraser Murdoch**

The Nicene Creed BCP pg. 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 (Form VI) BCP pg. 392

The Confession of Sin BCP pg. 393

People Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace BCP Pg. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
We greet one another, passing the peace of God.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Like the murmur of the dove's song Alan Smith

Presentation of the Offerings Hymn 304

verse 1

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B) BCP pg. 367

Celebrant and People Hymn S-125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer B Continues BCP pg. 368

The Lord's Prayer BCP pg. 364

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.

The Breaking of the Bread BCP pg. 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion *Gluten-free wafers are available.*

Communion Hymn All who hunger gather gladly WLP 761
Holy Manna

Post Communion Prayer BCP pg. 365

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 Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. Amen.

Closing Hymn Jesus lives! Hymn 195
Mowsley

Dismissal BCP pg. 366

Postlude



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ARLINGTON, VA

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Whatever has brought you to worship with this community today, we're so glad you're here. If you're wondering whether there might be something more for you, we hope you'll come back and find out. One of the things we're committed to is finding how our story connects with God's story. We'd love to have your story become a part of our story. The best way to participate in these conversations is to look for announcements about "Being With" courses in our e-newsletter.

Sounds from children, young and old, are a valuable part of our prayer life - not a distraction from it! Families are encouraged to sit in the front of the sanctuary, allowing children as many opportunities to follow along and participate as possible. Should a break be beneficial at any point in the service, the nursery is available for supervised play, and includes a QR code for streaming of the service on any device.

The root of the word liturgy is "the work of the people." Meaning all that happens in the sanctuary with the community who gathers works because of your participation. The beautiful thing about this invitation to participate is that, who we are and what we bring is enough because God meets us here! So don't worry about "doing" anything "right." Whether you've been to Episcopal services for a long time, or this is your first, we hope you'll worship in the way that is most comfortable to you. The service instructions about standing, kneeling, and other directions are intended to help clue you into the habits of this particular community.

The words of our worship service are lifted from the Episcopal (and before that Anglican) tradition. The thing that sets us apart from other denominations is our dedication to Common Prayer. These same words have been used for hundreds of years by people all over the world, and are still used today. The hope of finding ourselves in the midst of this ancient tradition is that we might both learn from those who have come before, and add our own voices to the heavenly chorus.

We are currently offering communion in both kinds, the bread and the wine. Drinking from a common cup, is an essential symbolic practice, a reflection of our theology. We place great emphasis on offering this meal from a single paten (plate which holds the bread) and chalice to symbolize the unity we find in Christ, despite any perceived divisions. We return to the Eucharistic table again and again, because it is only through Christ that we are able to imagine what being unified might look like. Choosing to intinct the bread in the chalice is the least sanitary option, as we risk having many hands in the chalice. Please either drink from the chalice, or refrain from consuming the wine. Whether you would like to receive bread, bread and wine, or a blessing, please know that you are welcome at the Lord's table.