

Easter 5, May 2, 2021

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Song of Praise **Great and Wonderful** (together)

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds
O Lord God the almighty
O Sovereign of the nations
- 2 Who shall not revere and praise your name O' Lord?
For you alone are holy
- 3 All nations shall come and worship in your presence
for your just dealings have been revealed
- 4 To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:
be blessing and honour, glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen

Celebrant May God be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant Let us pray together.

Collect of the Day (together)

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth, you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in you alone who can teach us who we are; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. **Amen.**

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.

Psalm 22:24-30

- 24 My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship you.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek you shall praise you: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
- 27 For yours is the royal power, O God; *
you rule over the nations.
- 28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship*
all who go down to the dust fall before you.
- 29 My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; *
they shall be known as yours for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
The saving deeds that you have done.

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.

The Gospel John 15:1-8

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

The Sermon

Prayers of the People

Living Christ, you are risen from the dead! You are eternal life, stronger than death. Open our eyes to see you as we ask for your merciful grace.

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially.... In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the retired clergy of the diocese. We joyfully celebrate your resurrection with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Imbue your people with a sense of your risen presence, today and always. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations of the earth, especially..... God of Creation, you have given us a world of wondrous diversity. Open our eyes to see the beauty of your cosmic weaving. Give us open hearts and the confidence to invite all into the bond of your love, that in unity with you, we may bring your reign of peace to all peoples. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation, so full of divisions. Enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry. Help us to break down the barriers in our communities. Free us to challenge and uproot racism from ourselves, our nation, and our world. And when our eyes do not see the gravity and pervasiveness of racial injustice, shake us from our slumber and move us to action, O God.

We remember especially.....For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for our community, especially..... and for those who have birthdays: Kelsey Turner, Patti Brown, Mary-Anne Prince Turco, Ernie Blanchette and Carolyn Davis. God, who came to earth as one of us, help us to see you in each member of this community. Bless the many gifts of our members and keep before us the image of Servant Jesus, that in him we remain ready to serve one another and those whom you continue to bring into our midst. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer and struggle, especially . . .

God of Compassion open our hearts to bind wounds and heal. Bless each person who asks for our prayers. Be present, through your people, to all who need your comfort. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, especially . . . that your will for them may be fulfilled. God who loved us from before our birth and who loves us beyond the grave, we remember those who have died in the hope of the resurrection. And we remember those who mourn, that they may be assured of that same hope. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray that our risen life include greater care of the creation you have entrusted to us. Help us to be champions for this fragile planet. We remember especially.....

For this we pray.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

All: O God, who created all people in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Peace *The people stand as they are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Eucharist (*people's responses*)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant May God be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People We lift them up to the Lord

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. *Alleluia, Alleluia***

Postlude

Announcements: Upon entering or exiting, please put your offertory in the plate on the table.

Donations for the Capital Fund are welcome in May.

