

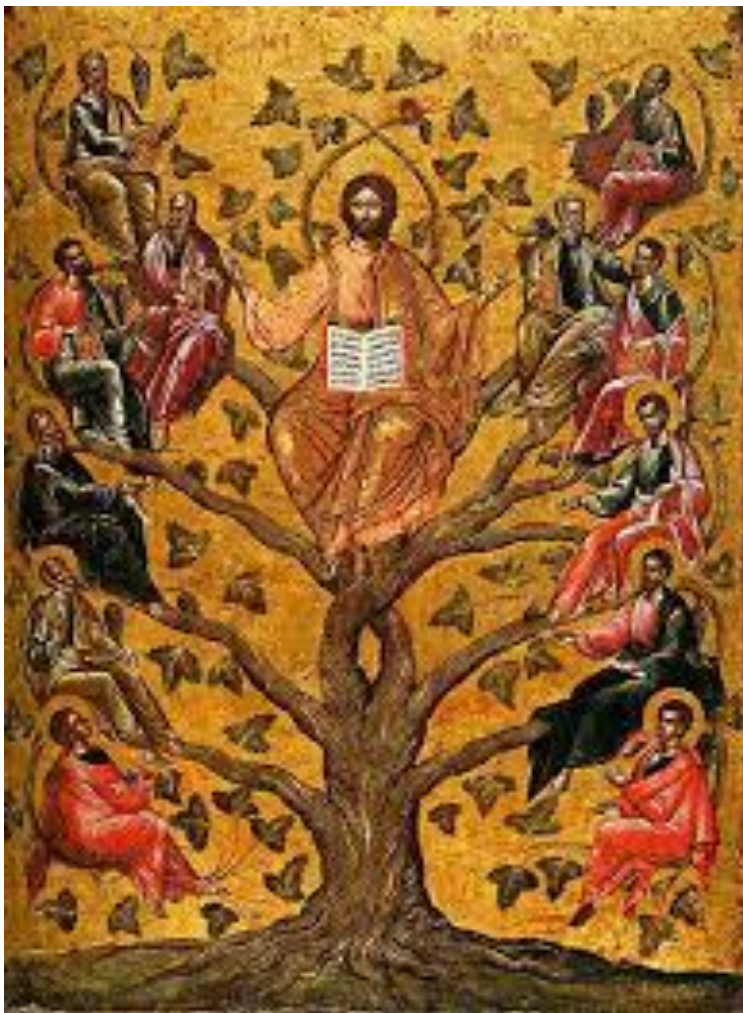
Welcome to ST. MATTHEW'S

April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of
Easter

Holy Eucharist
10 AM





PRELUDE

Hymn #178

Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give Praise to his Name.

1

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

(refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

2

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

(refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

3

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live for ever.

(refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

4

Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior

(refrain)

The Word of God

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

Gloria S-280

*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.*

Continued...

*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.*

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.***

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

Then 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.

Continued...

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.

Continued...

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.***

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.

A Reading from the first letter of 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.

Continued...

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.

Continued...

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***

Hymn #577

(refrain)

God is love, and where true love is

God himself is there.

1

Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting.

Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal.

Loving him, let each love Christ in one another.

(refrain)

God is love, and where true love is

God himself is there.

2

When we Christians gather, members of one Body,

let there be in us no discord but one spirit.

Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.

Christ, our God, be always present here among us.

(refrain)

God is love, and where true love is
God himself is there.

3

Grant us love's fulfillment, joy with all the blessed,
when we see your face, O Savior, in its glory.

Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,
be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.

(refrain)

God is love, and where true love is
God himself is there.

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

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

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

Continued...

“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.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Reverend Steve Hood

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

continued...

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,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

continued...

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.

**Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 71st General Convention, following the resolution of the 68th General Convention, and responding to Resolution 19 of the joint meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council (Capetown 1993), hereby reaffirm its intention to remove the words “and the Son” from the third paragraph of the Nicene Creed at the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer.*

Prayers of the People

Holy and Gracious God, you know us as your own and beckon us to follow you. May we do so through your grace as we pray,
Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the nations of the world and for those in positions of authority; that peace, justice and reconciliation may be the ideals that guide our common life.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the honoring of human rights, for the relief of the oppressed, and for all victims of war, terror, hate, and abuse.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Continued...

We pray for the renewal of the church in faith, love and service and for all who minister in Christ's name.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the clergy and members of our diocese, especially Kym, our Bishop, that your peace may calm our hearts, and your love infuse all our interactions.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who have died, for people of every time and place, that they may now share in fullness of life with you, especially _____.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, _____ . I invite your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving _____ .

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

The celebrant adds this or another concluding collect

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

“Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.” *1 John*

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Birthday & Anniversary Blessings
Welcome and Announcements

Offertory

Because He Lives

St. Matthew's Choir

You can give at the following link:

<https://www.stmatthewsgj.org/giving-to-st-matthews>

Presentation Hymn

Hymn #205

(verses 1 and 4)

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

And sing today with one accord

The life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

continued...

for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who gave his life for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, (S-125)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Continued...

Then the Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.

Continued...

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Continued...

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

continued...

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with blessed Mary, Matthew, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

Celebrant and People

BCP 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

A period of silence is kept after the celebrant breaks the bread.

Then may be sung

**This is the body of Christ,
broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God,
true to his word, cradles our Lord:
Food for the good of the soul.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Remember who you are,
become what you receive.

Music to Accompany Communion

Hymn #315

1

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray
that all thy Church might be for ever one,
grant us at every Eucharist to say
with longing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
O may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all thy Church above,
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
one with thy saints in one unbounded love;
more blessed still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in Unity.

Hymn #831 (WLP)

Ubi caritas

et amor,

ubi caritas

Deus ibi est.

(repeat as prompted)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

**Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

The Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May you be a new creation, Christ for those to whom Christ shall send you, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn #657

1

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be alway blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia,
Alleluia.

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

Postlude

The Sending Out of the Eucharist to the Homebound and Sick

Deacon: We send you forth bearing the Gifts of God, that those to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood, and in the fellowship of this community.

Response: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**