

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 28, 2024

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:24-30; 1 John 4:7-12, 16b-21; John 15:1-8

Hymn 47, On This Day, The First Of Days, God The Father's Name We Praise

THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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.**

Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest

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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Acts

This is the story of how Philip brought the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Jesus. It illustrates the way an important passage from the Old Testament, which tells of the Lord's servant who suffered for others, was interpreted as prophecy about Jesus.

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 is a song of praise to the Lord, who rules over all and cares for the downtrodden. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated by R.



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My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!" R. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations. R. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done. R.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

This reading teaches that God's love is made known to us through Jesus. In response we are to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but to experience God's love and to recognize Jesus as God's Son is to know God.

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.

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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

all stand – Hymn 205, vs. 4

Your Name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord the life laid down,
the life restored: high: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "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. 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."

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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.

Prayers of the People

In joy and hope let us pray to God, who has raised our Lord Jesus from the dead.

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, O Lord, we pray;

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That needs be met for those who lack food, work or shelter, O Lord, we pray ; **R.**

That through the gift of peace, war and famine may cease through all the world, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may reveal the light of his presence to the suffering, the sick, and the dying;

to comfort and strengthen them, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

O Lord, we pray; **R.**

Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. Opportunity is extended to those present to offer their own petitions.

In our Diocese: All Saints, Brooklyn; St. Michael and All Angels, Cambridge Junction/Onsted

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Bangladesh

Our parish prayer list: Christopher, Matt, Bill Steiner, Richard Simonds, Karen Schulze, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Nina, Vicki.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, 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.**

Receive our prayers of intercession and penitence O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do for others, so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 304, I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord, Forgiven, Loved And Free

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Abiding God, you planted the vineyard of creation, and called your chosen people to be your vine . . .
And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

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 are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ is truly raised from the dead, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

After all have received, please stand.

God of love; In this eucharist we have heard your truth and felt the power of your presence in bread and wine. May we always walk in your way, sharing your light by loving and serving our neighbors. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his resurrection, has given us the victory that we might know joy and peace in our faith; So let us be blessed by Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, now and forever. Amen.

Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn 514, To Thee, O Comforter Divine, For All Thy Grace And Power Benign, Sing We Alleluia!

A JOYOUS EASTERTIDE TO ALL!

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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