

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.

The Psalm

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

- 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.

Said together:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

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.

Hymn

Thou art the Way, to thee alone

H 457

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

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."

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

Prayers of the People VI

BCP 392

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!



The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called the Mass

Offertory

Is Not This Bread?

Rudolph

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

All praise, O risen Lord, we give to thee, who, dead, again dost live; to God the Father equal praise, and God the Holy Ghost, we raise.

from H 193, v. 5

Eucharistic Prayer "B"

BCP 367

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S138

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional version, found on BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

H-S 152

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed H 323
What wondrous love is this H 439
Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life H 487

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Lord dismiss us with thy blessing* H 344

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Mary Catherine Williams and Sheila Brooks. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us.

The Altar Flowers are given today by Frank and Bernadette Dragotto in memory of their loved ones.

Birthdays This Week: Paul Broyles, Lynn McCue Burney, Philip Cyrus.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Elizabeth Burton Becky Beckett
Lectors Linda Ammar Becky Beckett
Chalicists Don Williams Becky Beckett
Altar Guild Kay Sudduth Elizabeth Sudduth Betty Nash
Kathy Burge

Attendance Last Sunday 52



Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes—Wanda Myers—Bonnie Taylor—Joe Sanders—Marlene—Lee Puckett, Sr.—Phyllis & Nelson Walker—Linda—Valerie Mahood—Sierra—Alex B.—Toni R.—Linda Sydeski—Ragen—Jared Cregger—Kerrigan Farmer—Lindsey Parsley—Mike—Daisy Bowman—Ellie Spencer—Sue Godwin—Gary Slater—Kennedy Quillen—Mabeline Robinson

Calendar of Events

Saturday – May 5 Church Work Day 9:00am
Derby Party at 6:00pm
Wednesday – May 9 ECM Dinner 6:00pm
Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Saturday – May 12 Church Work Day 9:00am
Postal Service Food Drive
Sunday – May 13 Mother's Day
Food Pantry bagging after church
Tuesday – May 15 DOK meeting 10:30
Thursday – May 17 Food Pantry 9-11:00am
Sunday – May 20 Pentecost Sunday
Sunday – May 27 Trinity Sunday with Baptisms

Announcements:

Personal Hygiene Basket: Add items in narthex.

Fellowship Home Dinner: Sign-up to help prepare the dinner. Will take the dinner in late April or early May. Thank you!

Church Work Days: Help us clean and fix minor repairs here on the first two Saturday's in May. Let Dee Puckett or Fr. Chad know of a project or special need you have in mind. Lunch will be provided.

Derby Party: Father Chad and Jennifer Slater invites you to their home on Saturday, May 5th. Bring a dish to share as we watch the Kentucky Derby beginning at 6:00pm. Ladies, don't forget to wear your Derby hats!

Postal Service Food Drive: Don't forget to leave nonperishable food items out for your mail carrier to collect on Saturday, May 12. Our Food Pantry is one of the recipients of the donated food in the Bluefield area. Volunteers will be needed to help pick up food at the post office that evening.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton
Dr. Rob Merritt Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett Junior Warden



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April 29, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.



The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *In Christ there is no East or West* H 529

The Service Begins BCP 355
Gloria in Excelsis H-S 280

The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP

The Collect

Our collective prayer for the day.

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.*