



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 6, 2012, 9:30 am

“I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinegrower.”

John 15:1

We worship during Easter according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two,
beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn
In Christ There Is No East or West.....529

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.**

The Hymn of Praise
Christ Is Alive.....182

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

The Lessons (the people sit)

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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 22:24-30

Refrain:
**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the LORD.**

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!"

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.

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.

Refrain:
**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the LORD.**

Sermon

The Epistle – 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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – John 15:1-8 (the people stand)

Hymn – *Abide With Me*.....662
Verses 1-2

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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 Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn – *Abide With Me*.....662
Verses 3-4

The Nicene Creed (*the people stand*)

**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 IV, page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray for St. Andrew's, Sylacauga; for Good Shepherd, Montgomery; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Diocesan Ecumenical/Interfaith Commission; and for the Welcome Center (Millbrook).
(Silence) Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal these persons: *The Lay Reader reads the first names from the Parish Prayer List: the Stewart family, Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Zoe Bush, John Rand, Dawn Jones (Jere and Pam VanEtten), Jim Cantrell (Al Cantrell), Xander Kerr (Jean Kerr), Amber, Jared and Deysel Oliver (Kathy Haynie), Troy Warlick (Kathy Haynie), Emmet Nolan (Maurice McCord), Mary Alice Merith (Shea Boland), Harold Baker (B&R), Annie Lee Dubose (B&R), Melvin Cannon (B&R), Emmy Moncrief (B&R), Carol (B&R), all those living in nursing homes (B&R), Mike, Cindy, Johnnie, and Kelly (Ann Easley), Neil Sharpton (Lee Borden), Brandon Boland (Cathy Jones), and James Wray Bush (Arnold Bush).*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The people may add their own petitions.

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn - *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me; this I know,

For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong;

They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.

The Presentation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 129)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

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.

The people stand or kneel

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

**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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: *Spirit of the Living God*.....SH-8

After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn (*the people stand*)

Nearer My God To Thee.....SH-90

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Page 1 image: "Alabama Muscadines," from www.gastronomy.blog.com

Join us in Sunday School immediately following worship for a special visit with Gretchen Kindrick, the Program and Publication Director for the Montgomery Food Bank. Next Sunday, May 13, is Rogation Sunday. Our guest speaker in Sunday School will be health coach Patricia Jordan.

Serving at Epiphany today:

Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie
Chalice Bearer: Laura Williams
Refreshments: Betty Weldon
Stewards: Al Cantrell and Ann Easley