

"Beloved, let us love one another,  
because love is from God."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
5th Sunday of Easter  
April 29, 2018, 10:30 am

1 John 4:7a

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

## The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn:

*God Is Love, and Where True Love Is.....577*  
(Sing refrain first and between each verse)

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.**

*Gloria.....St James*

The Collect of the Day

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.**

*Psalm 22:24-30*

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.**

*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: *Freely, Freely*.....Songsheet

The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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 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.**

Sermon Larry Yarbrough

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: 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 VI, page 392 of the Book of Common Prayer)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence.*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Kee, our bishop; for Wells, our priest; for Larry, our supply priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

We pray for Jean Kerr, Jim Rand, Eddie Harper, Greg Dubay, our Beans & Rice clients, the family of Barbara Dennis, and the others we now name: *(the people here add their own petitions)*.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
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.**

### The Absolution

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

Offertory Hymn: *O Love That Casts Out Fear*.....700

### 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  
(*Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p 367*)

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(*The priest says a Proper Preface*)

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:

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy*.....*St James*

*The people stand or kneel*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy

to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

**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.**

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*.....*St James*

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.*

*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*):  
*God Is Love , Let Heaven Adore Him*.....379

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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We are so pleased that Larry Yarbrough and Amy Hastings are part of our congregation when they're in Alabama. We are delighted to welcome Larry as our supply priest today. Larry is the Tillinghast Professor of Religion at Middlebury College in Vermont.

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### ***Serving at Epiphany this week . . .***

Ushers/Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper  
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones  
Lay Reader: Maurice McCord  
Piano: Esther Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Lee Borden  
Refreshments: Lavonne Hart  
Grounds: Maurice McCord and Lee Borden

### ***and next . . .***

Ushers/Stewards: Laura Williams and Barbara Trogon  
Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber  
Lay Reader: Lulu Campbell  
Piano: Esther Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Maurice McCord  
Refreshments: Laura Williams  
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon