



**The 5th Sunday of Easter
The Holy Eucharist Rite II
Confirmation
The Order of Worship
April 28, 2024**

Voluntary

Cornet Voluntary
Grace Tice, oboe

George Berg

Please stand

Hymn 492

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Celebrant
People

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Bishop then continues

BCP 413

There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.
Bishop The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Bishop Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 225

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

The Lessons

Please be seated

***The First Lesson**

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible 1270

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Mode 1

Refrain

Make known the sav - ing deeds that God has done.

from *Gradual Psalms for the RCL*, ed. Bruce E. Ford, Church Publishing Incorporated.

Refrain: Sung by the Cantor
Repeated Refrain: Sung by all

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!"

REFRAIN

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.

REFRAIN

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

* **The Second Lesson** 1 John 4:7-21 Pew Bible 1382

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

* **Hymn 297** *Descend, O Spirit, purging flame*

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**
John 15:1-8

Pew Bible 1253

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated

✠ The Sermon *The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher*

Please stand

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

BCP 415

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God’s grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with *those* who *are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in
the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into
sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of
God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and
respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.
A period of silence follows.

Prayers for the Candidates

Leader Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your *servants* the covenant you made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **Amen.**

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace*Please stand*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 People **And also with you.**

Announcements*Please be seated***The Holy Communion****The Offertory Sentence****Offertory Anthem**

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song
 Good Shepherd Choir and oboe
 Christine Donly, conductor

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to God praises all the earth.
 Oh, sing to the Lord and bless his name.
 Bear witness of God's grace, Glad tidings of great joy.
 Proclaim our salvation from day to day.

Come tell of God's glorious mercies. Show all the peoples his wonderful works,
 For great is our God; he deserves our praise.
 He is feared from on high; other gods are but dust,
 For the Lord made the heavens; strength and beauty lie in his sway.
 Let the skies be glad, the earth rejoice in the Lord,
 The sea sings out God's name.

Let the fields rise up in Joy. Let the forests clap their hands.
 The whole earth give thanks to the God we love.
 Worship the King. Come in love unto the throne.
 Lift your heads, lift your hearts, lift your lives as a act of praise.

*Please stand***Presentation Hymn**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia.
 praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Great Thanksgiving**Eucharistic Prayer D**

BCP 372

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus S-128

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

BCP 375

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past.

We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

Celebrant and People

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

Fraction Anthem: S-151

*(The congregation will repeat the antiphon after the cantor, and where marked **R**.)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Cantor Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
Therefore let us keep the feast. **R**

Celebrant 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.

- *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*
- *All others are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*
- *After receiving Holy Communion, healing prayers are available in the Chapel.*
- *The congregation is invited to sing the hymns with the choir.*

Communion Music

Gabriel's oboe
Oboe and Piano

Ennio Morricone

God so loved the world
Good Shepherd Choir
Anna Zhang, soloist

Bob Chilcott

Anthem Text John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Communion Hymn 513

Like the murmur of the dove's song

Please kneel

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People 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.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors Commissioned (if LEVS sent out)

Celebrant and People In the name of this congregation, we send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Seasonal Blessing

Please stand

Hymn 304 *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the spirit. .

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

Voluntary *In thee is gladness*

J.S. Bach



The hymns for today's service were selected by the Confirmation Class. For hymn selection we considered: the Easter season, the scriptures of the day, confirmation theme, and referred to a liturgical music planner. They did an excellent job and I hope this also gives you some insight in selecting music for our services.