

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

1305 Thomas Dr, Bellevue, NE 68005



April 28, 2024

9:30 am

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rite II

WELCOME EVERYONE

If you are our guest today, or are a member who has been away for a while, we are glad you joined us for worship today. Please let us know you are joining us online by leaving a comment, or by emailing us so that we can say thank you.

God Bless
Fr Tom

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The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Opening Hymn

He Lives

CHS 2

Welcome

Peace

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever. Amen**

Celebrant and People

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.

Celebrant and People

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People : **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 22:24-30

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.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn

Spirit Song

CHS 11

The Gospel: John 15:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Message

Terri S

The Nicene Creed *[Please stand]*

Celebrant: Please stand as we affirm our faith in the words of 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.

Prayers of the People

[Please kneel or be seated]

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Scott our Bishop; Tom, our priest; Terri, our postulant for the diaconate, Ted our aspirant for the diaconate ;in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for ____; in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, ____, and in the DR _____. In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for ____, for this gathering, and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for our President, Joe Biden; our governor, Pete Ricketts; and for all elected and appointed officials of the communities in which we live and around the world. I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor and the destitute, for the sick, the hungry and those who struggle to survive; and for those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____], and those we name silently or out loud. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

In our own congregation, I ask your prayers that God stays with and strengthens all those who are ill; especially _____ are there others?

I ask your prayers to lift up those with special concerns; especially the _____ are there others?

I ask your prayers and remembrances today for those who serve our country at home and abroad; especially those who are in harm's way _____ are there others? Be with them and their families Lord, to give them comfort and hope until they are once again reunited in peace.

Watch over those in our community who travel; especially; _____ are there others? Keep them safe as only you can.

We ask that you continue to pour out your blessings on those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially; _____; are there others? and those who are celebrating anniversaries, especially; _____ are there others?

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reader: 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 hearts; 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

The Celebrant continues:

For 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**

Almighty God, whose will it is to hold heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom, give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. **Amen**

Offertory Hymn

Come, Ye Faithful

Hymnal 199

Doxology

Hymnal 380 v3

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader The Lord be with you, _____ *All* And al -
Leader so with you. _____ Lift up your
All hearts. _____ We lift them up to the Lord, _____
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is *All*
right to give our thanks and praise. _____

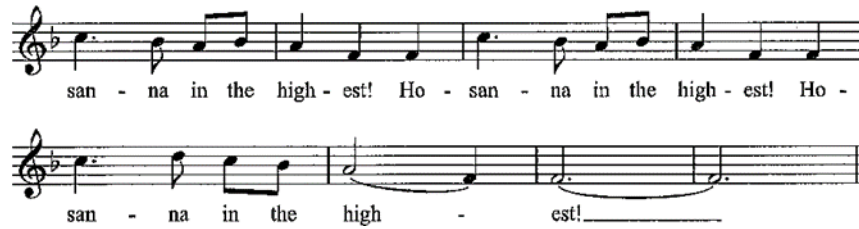
The Celebrant proceeds

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. _____ Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - -
-ry. _____ Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! _____ Blest is the one who comes. _____
_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -

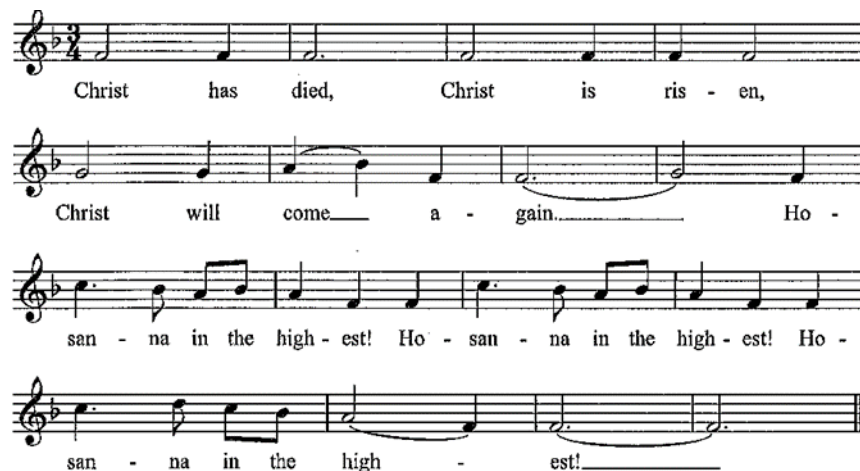


Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever.

A - - - men. A - - - men.
A - - - - - men. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

And now as our Lord Jesus Christ taught we are bold to say

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Hymn

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant offers the following invitation:

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.

Communion Hymn

O Love How Deep

Hymnal 448

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

The Blessing

Announcements

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Going Forth Hymn

In Christ There is No East or West

Hymnal 529

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. .

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Birthday/Anniversary Prayers

Birthday Prayer: O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on *this* your servant, as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness, all the days of *their* life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer: O gracious and ever living God, look mercifully on these who have been joined together. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Birthdays:

Bonnie E
Travis Z
Jennifer B
Bob C
Janet H
Ruth T

Anniversaries:



The Nave Presence Candle is given by Fr Tom & Sharon Jones in Thanksgiving for our daughter Casey and her family, Ryan, Kyper, Ailynn & Hopper.

The Chapel Presence Candle is given by Ken Gomeringer in Memory of my parents, Bob & Mary Gomeringer.

WEEKLY MINISTRY TEAMS			
Ministries		Apr 28	May 5
VPOD		Kristi S	Lori E
Hospitality		Team 3	Team 4
Altar Guild		Team 4	Team 1
Spirit Hub		Cindy P	Deanne M
Altar Bread		Carol M	Kitty K
LEMs	5:00 pm	Toby W/Kathy B	Amber H
	8:00 am	Terri S	Doug A
	9:30 am	Brian C Jan S	Michele H Ted P
Recycle		Karen G	Jan S
Acolytes 9:30 am	C T T	Isaiah CH Olivia H Mya H	Isaiah JH Mya H MacKenzie C

This Week's Highlights

Journeys Crossing: All are invited to join our youth this Wed (1 May) as we celebrate the graduation and advancement of youth participating in our Journeys program. Dinner begins at 6:00pm, and our service will begin about 7:15. If you are going to join us for dinner, please let us know by stopping by the Spirit Hub and signing the guest list.

Recognition Sunday: Next Sun (5 May) we will be recognizing the accomplishments of our parish family. If you or a member of your family is graduating from Elementary, Jr or Sr High, Trade School, or college, please let the office know so we can add all to our prayers on this day. During announcements we will also reveal the winner of this year's CHS College scholarship.

Stephen Center: This week we wrap up our collection to purchase toiletries for the Stephen Center. Please place the word "homeless" in the memo line of your check.

Youth Mission: We are finalizing the team for our 6-12 July Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. While this trip was initially planned for youth 16-20, we are opening it up to youth and young adults. Youth 12-15 may attend but must be accompanied by an adult. If interested, please let Fr Tom know by Sunday (19 May). Scholarship funds are available to help offset the cost.

Volunteer Needed: Fr Tom is looking for a volunteer to assist him with his youth activities coordination beginning in May. If you like working with youth, and are interested in helping, please contact Fr Tom.