



SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28 April 2024

MORNING PRAYER & LOW MASS AT 8AM

MORNING PRAYER

¶ The Officiant may begin with a sentence of Scripture.

THE INVITATORY

Officiant O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.

People **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

PASCHA NOSTRUM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; :
therefore let us keep the
feast, Not with old leaven,
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, :
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; :
death hath no more dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once;
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, :
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ is risen from the dead, :
and become the first fruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death, :
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, :
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

PSALM 66:1-8 *Jubilate Deo* ¶ *Read responsively by whole verse.*

O be joyful in God, all ye lands :
sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.

**Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works : through the greatness
of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.**

For all the world shall worship thee :
sing of thee, and praise thy Name.

**O come hither, and behold the works of God :
how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.**

He turned the sea into dry land :
so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.

**He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people :
and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.**

O praise our God, ye people :
and make the voice of his praise to be heard;

**Who holdeth our soul in life :
and suffereth not our feet to slip.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert road. And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Can'dace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this: "As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken up from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized

him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azo'tus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesare'a.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS *¶ Said by all, standing*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud,

the Heavens and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.

The noble army of martyrs praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,

the Father, of an infinite majesty,

thine adorable, true, and only Son,

also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,

thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,

thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,

whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

✠ O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage;

✠ Govern them and lift them up for ever.

✠ Day by day we magnify thee;

✠ And we worship thy Name ever, world without end.

✠ Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin;

✠ O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

℣ O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us;

℟ **As our trust is in thee.**

℣ O Lord, in thee have I trusted;

℟ **Let me never be confounded.**

A COLLECT FOR EASTER

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Intercession Paper for the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

Intercession Paper for the Guild of All Souls

May their souls, ✠ and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING VERSICLES

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The grace ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

LOW MASS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. ✠ Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.
KChriste eleison. Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**
Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.** Kyrie eleison.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE EPISTLE

1 John 3:18-24

Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley

NICENE CREED *¶ Said by all, standing*

I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, | *(Genuflect or*
and was made man; | *bow)*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic
Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

℟ Celebrant

In joy and hope let us pray to the Lord.

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died ✠ in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O God, the living God, who has given unto us a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: Grant that we, being risen with him, may seek the things which are above, and be made partakers of the life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

OFFERTORY PRAYERS (*Please be seated*)

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth hath given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant Blessed art thou, Lord God of all creation; through thy goodness we have this wine to offer: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

ORATE, FRATRES (*Standing*)

Celebrant Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, to glorify thee, O Father, and to give thanks unto thee, for thou alone art God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before all time and for ever. Fountain of life and Source of all goodness, thou hast made all things and didst fill them with thy blessing, creating them to rejoice in the splendor of thy radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before thee to serve thee night and day; and, beholding the glory of thy presence, they offer thee unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we praise thee, and glorify thy Name, saying,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed ✠ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *¶ All kneel.*

WE ACCLAIM THEE, HOLY LORD, glorious in power, whose mighty works reveal thy wisdom and love. Thou hast formed us in thine own image, giving the whole world into our care, that in obedience unto thee, our Maker, we might rule and serve all thy creatures. When our disobedience took us far from thee, thou didst not abandon us to the power of death, but in thy mercy thou didst come to our help, that in seeking thee we might find thee. Again and again thou didst call us into covenant with thee, and through the prophets thou didst teach us to hope for salvation.

Thou didst so love the world, O Father, that in the fullness of time thou didst send thine only-begotten 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. That thy purpose might be fulfilled, he gave himself up unto death; and rising from the grave he destroyed death and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to

complete his work in the world, bringing to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by thee, 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 unto thee, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this for the remembrance of me."



Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this:

FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS SHED
FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, for the remembrance of me."



And now, O Father, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to thy right hand, awaiting his coming in glory, and offering unto thee, from the gifts which thou hast given us, this bread and this cup, we praise thee and we bless thee.

Celebrant and People

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

We beseech thee, O Lord, that in thy goodness and mercy thy Holy Spirit may descend upon us and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and revealing them as holy gifts for thy holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of thy Name. Remember, O Lord, thy one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the Blood of thy Christ. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with blessed Stephen our patron, and with all the saints who have found favor with thee in ages past. We praise thee in union with them and give thee glory through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ all honor and glory be unto thee, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world, grant us thy peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: ECCE AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Behold ✠ the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of
the world.

People Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof:
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to the altar rail and then return to your pew via the passageway on the right. If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find

yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *¶ All kneel.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL *¶ Please stand.*

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

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

