

THE KALENDAR

S. Stephen's Church
in Providence

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: *Rogation Sunday*

17 MAY 2020

VIRTUAL LOW MASS 10 AM

THE OPENING RITE

Please stand when the bell is rung.

OPENING VOLUNTARY – *Chorale-trio "Christus, der ist mein Leben," Op. 78*

Sigfred Karg-Elert (1877 – 1933)

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.

Christe 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 *(Sixth Sunday of Easter)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING – *Acts 17:22-31 (Please be seated)*

So Paul, standing in the middle of the Are-op'agus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which

he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:7-18 *Jubilate Deo (Read in unison)*

- 7 O praise our God, ye peoples, * **and make the voice of his praise to be heard.**
- 8 **Who holdeth our soul in life; * and suffereth not our feet to slip.**
- 9 **For thou, O God, hast proved us; * thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.**
- 10 **Thou broughtest us into the snare; * and laidest trouble upon our loins.**
- 11 **Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads; * we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.**
- 12 **I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings, and will pay thee my vows, * which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in trouble.**
- 13 **I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams; * I will offer bullocks and goats.**
- 14 **O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God; * and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.**
- 15 **I called unto him with my mouth, * and gave him praises with my tongue.**
- 16 **If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart, * the Lord will not hear me.**
- 17 **But God hath heard me; * and considered the voice of my prayer.**
- 18 **Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer, * nor turned his mercy from me.**

**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.**

SECOND READING – 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that

should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL – *John 14:15-21 (Please stand)*

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, "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.**

HOMILY

Fr. Mead

NICENE CREED

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 – FORM V

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of thy coming, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in thee, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as thou and the Father are one, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all God's creatures, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For God's blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things necessary for God's people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of God's creation may abound from age to age, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth thy glory in all that we do, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; ✠ for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, for our families, friends and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace and health, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have ✠ died in the communion of thy Church, and those whose faith is known to thee alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to thee, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen our patron and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

For thine is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY – *Improvisation on hymn tune “Kingsfold”*

“Oh Jesus, crowned with all renown, since thou the earth hast trod, thou reignest and by thee come down henceforth the gifts of God”

–E. W. Benson (1829 – 1896)

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

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 & PREFACE

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, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and 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 II *(Please kneel if you are able to do so)*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat,

THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.
Do this in remembrance of me.”



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

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, in remembrance of me.”



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless

and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

✠ By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant & 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

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. Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof:

People But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

THE CLOSING RITE

Please kneel if you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Please remain kneeling.

SOLEMN BLESSING FOR EASTER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy Spirit.**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY – *March-Triumphale - Nun danket alle Gott, Op. 65*
Sigfred Karg-Elert

Please join us for a Virtual Coffee Hour following the service. The instructions to join can be found in this week's Parish Notes.

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH in Providence

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(401) 421-6702

The Rev'd Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Priest-in-Charge*
The Rev'd Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd William Locke, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, *Assisting Priest*
James Busby, D.Mus., *Organist & Choirmaster*
Joel McCoy, *Cantor*

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