

ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

Prelude

"Sonata in F minor. K. 239"

Scarlatti

Hymn 529

"In Christ there is no East or West"

McKee

✘ All hymns not printed are found in the blue Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn of Praise



1. Glo-ry to God in the high - est and



peace to God's peo-ple on Earth. Lord God, heaven - ly One, al -



might - y God, Cre - a - tor, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks,



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ,



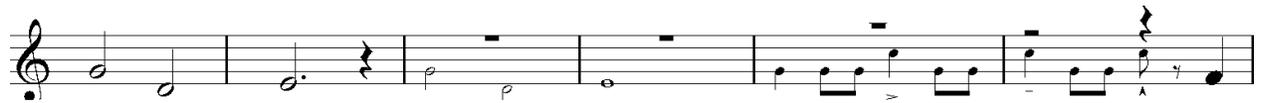
on - ly Son of our Mak - er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the High - est: re -



ceive our prayer.

For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God, E - ter - nal.

A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.**

✠ *All sit*

Reading – 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.

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

Hymn

“Halle, Halle”

✦ All stand. A cantor sings a verse and then all sing the refrain twice before the Gospel and refrain once after the Gospel

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

The Holy Gospel - John 15:1-8

Celebrant: The 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 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.

Sermon

The Rev. Alex Dyer

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon.*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 Nicene Creed is likely the most universally accepted and recognized statements of the Christian faith and was adopted in 325 CE. It has been adapted for more inclusive language.

Prayers of the People

✠ *All remain standing as able.*

Celebrant: Siblings in Christ, God invites us to bring our doubts and fears, our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise, and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.

Intercessor:

For those who struggle to love others and themselves. O God, you appear to even in our fear and love us in our doubts and grant us grace we often don't even grant ourselves. Help us to be patient with ourselves and with each other. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to you, God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within. That your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

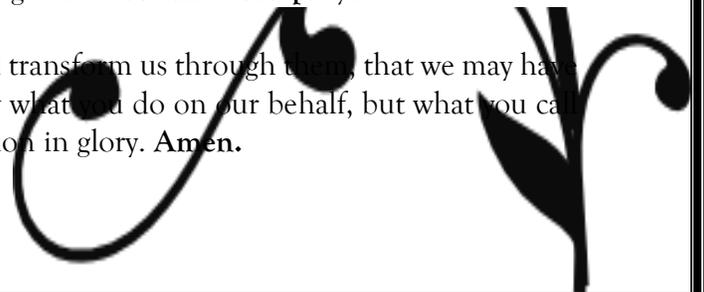
For those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from any illness or disease— of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health— a health that only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

For our enemies. Wherever there are places disrupted by anger and bitterness, and wherever relationships are distorted and dulled, visit and bring your peace and compassion. Teach us to dismantle any system that excludes your children from fullness of life by poverty, hunger, unemployment or stigma, by injustice, criminality or neglect, by homelessness, landlessness or war. May your love be like a seed, take root and grow strong within us. **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. **Amen.**



The Peace

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

Announcements (see insert)

Offertory Sentence

✠ *The offering is collected to support the work of sharing God's love with the world and living out God's mission. The bread and wine are brought forward to the altar as the Priest prepares the altar.*

Offertory Anthem

"I Will Be The Vine"

Lawton

I will be the vine
and you will be the branches,
All you who live in me
will never, never die.
I will be the sign,
I will offer many chances,
So live, oh live in me and
you shall have new life.

Remain in me as I remain in you.
You may ask what you will,
ask what you will,
And you shall receive.
As the Father loved me, so have I loved you.
Remain in my love, remain in my love,
And I will give you life.

If you are my friends,
you will live my commands.
There is no greater love, no greater love
Than to lay down your life for your friends.



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.

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,

**We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
 We await Christ's 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 Thomas and 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

✠ *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and after a moment of silence, all sing*

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

✠ *Communion will be directed by the ushers. Return via the side aisles.*

Communion Hymn 304

"I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord"

Land of Rest

Prayer after Communion

Enriching our Worship

✠ *All stand.*



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

Celebrant: Let us pray

LOVING GOD, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Go now, and love one another,
because love is from God.
Proclaim God's salvation to every generation.
Remain in Jesus Christ,
and like branches of a vine,
draw your life from him.

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love. **Amen.**

Hymn 296

"We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

Engelborg

✘ *Please return the blue hymnals to the ushers after the service.*

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

"Fantaisie-Impromptu."

Chopin



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."

Vestry

Catherine Manhardt, Senior Warden
Dennis Hobb, Junior Warden
David Swanson, Treasurer
Gregory Zitterkob, Clerk

Jennie Allison, Karen Garlick, Reggie Greer, Bettina Hager,
Bob Moluf, Bob McDonald, and Ariel Vaagen

Staff

The Rev. Alex Dyer -
Robert Koehnke -
Cindy Adkins -
Stacey George -
Kimberly Davis --

Priest in Charge
Parish Administrator
Music Director
Accountant
Nursery Care Worker

adyer@stthomasdc.org
rkoehnke@stthomasdc.org
cadkins@stthomasdc.org
accountant@stthomasdc.org

Assisting Volunteer Clergy

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson - Bishop in Residence @BishopGRobinson

Parish Office Hours:

9:00am - 1:00pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
10:00am - 2:00pm Thursdays

St. Thomas' Parish

1777 Church St. NW Washington, DC 20036
202-332-0607
www.stthomasdc.org ✉ info@stthomasdc.org

