✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

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I am the true vine, and you are the branches.
Abide in me, as I abide in you.
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you, unless you abide in me.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Salutation Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Alleluia! Christ is risen! ***The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Collect for Purity *(unison)*: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of praise: Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast – not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

THE WORD OF GOD

Collect of the day *(unison)*: 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.

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 him-self at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus* ***BCP 611***

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 forever!"

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.

Second Lesson ***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 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 sisters or brothers, 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. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel: John 15:1-8 *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "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." *Response:* ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Homily Rev. Carol Carlson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

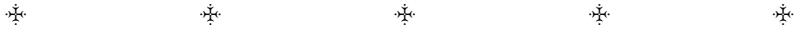
The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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. Amen.

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



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer D BCP 372

The Lord be with you - ***And also with you.***
Lift up your hearts: ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

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 say, ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

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 all 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.

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

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.

Remember Justin, Michael, Sean, Carol, Dick and all who minister to your Church; this congregation, St. Peter's, and all who minister to the world. Strengthen our witness to your love and care; help us in all our needs.

Remember all your people, especially those under persecution, all who suffer for justice and peace, and all who seek your truth.

Remember our national and local leaders, that they may serve justice and fulfill their duties in integrity and uprightness. Save us from ignorance, deceit and tyranny; heal our nation's wounds and defeat our enemies without and within.

Remember those who suffer from terror, despair, abuse, slavery, disease, loneliness, addiction, homelessness, violence, sorrow, constant pain, unemployment, injustice, ignorance. Deliver them from their trouble and give us hearts to recognise and minister to their needs.

Remember those dear to us who need your strength and help: David, Reid, Bill, Sue, Martha, Janet, Jim, Katie, Carlo, Ian, Peggy, Gayle, Jason, Dale, Joseph, Juanita, John, Gianna, Mia, Susie, Amber, John and Becky, Pat, Ron, Catherine, Ken, Mark, Marissa, Dorothy, Ed, Brady, Payton, Char and Dick, Terry, Maddie, Davey and Roland.

Remember those who put themselves at risk on others' behalf: Lisa, Scott, Nick, Kelly, Sean, Jane, Rich, Chris and Becky, William; Corey, Danny, Keith, Morgan, Cordell, Chris, Zach, Harrison, David, Jennifer, Ryan and Jade, Mack, Mason, Makayla, Natalie and Nathan, Vince, Geo, Sam, Jordan, Justin and Caitlyn, Isaac.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. ✣

And grant that we may find our inheritance with 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 for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: 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 and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Communion + All are invited to partake, physically and/or spiritually.

Prayer after Communion: Almighty and ever-living 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 CHURCH GOES FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

Dismissal *Response:* ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every morning is Easter morning from now on! And every Sunday is a feast of the resurrection. As we meditate on what that means for each and all of us, we seek to express in our worship and in our lives the joy that new life brings. Jesus's resurrection message is 'You shall be my witnesses' – that means all of us, bringing the good news of Jesus and his church to everyone we know.