

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Centered in God, Focused on Others
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Good Morning and Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church here in Hanover! We are glad you are with joining us online this morning. We pray that worshipping with us will give you a sense of fellowship with Christ and with us as God's people. If you would like more information about St. Andrew's, please email office@standrewshanover.org

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAISE HYMN #181

Awake and sing the song (v. 1-3)

1 A - wake and sing the song of
 2 Sing of his dy - ing love, his
 3 You pil - grims on the road to
 4 Soon shall each rap - tured tongue his

Mo - ses and the Lamb; wake ev - ery heart and
 re - sur - rec - tion power; sing how he in - ter -
 Zi - on's ci - ty, sing, re - joic - ing in the
 end - less praise pro - claim, and sing in sweet - er

ev - every tongue to praise the Sa - vior's name.
 cedes a - bove for those whose sins he bore.
 Lamb of God, in Christ the e - ter - nal King.
 notes the song of Mo - ses and the Lamb.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.***

THE LESSONS

First Reading: **Acts 8:26-40**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: **Psalm 22:24-30**

Read responsively by whole verse.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

***For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.***

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

***My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.***

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading: **1 John 4:7-21**

A Reading from the First letter of John.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #178

Jesus is Lord of all the earth (v. 1 & 2)

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Repeat Refrain

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

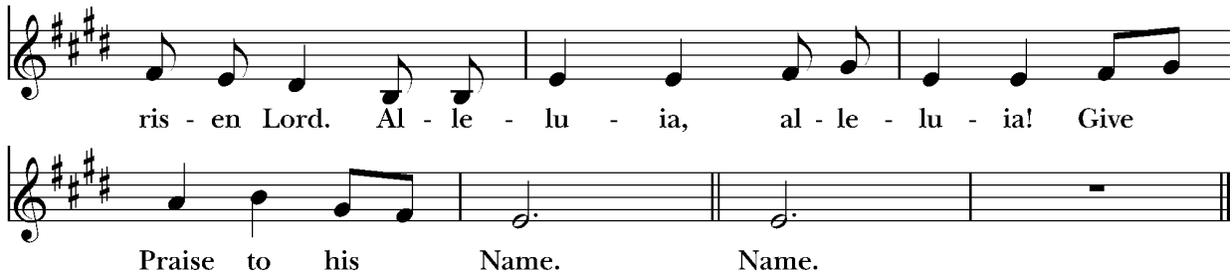
[Jesus said to his disciples,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Refrain
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.



SERMON

The Reverend Kevin Holland Sparrow

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

***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

May God, who loves us, open our lips that we may praise him, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

That we may give ourselves to the study of holy scripture and the traditions of our faith, growing deeper in knowledge and understanding, gaining confidence in the proclamation of hope to those who hunger for spiritual food; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

That we may continually seek the love of Christ, through whom we are able to love one another; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Alan and Gayle, Bishops of our diocese, and for all priests and deacons, that we may honor God's call to them and seek their counsel for spiritual direction and pastoral care; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For the forgiveness of our sins, those times when anger has subsumed love, and stubbornness broken bonds of affection, that we may call upon the charity of the Lord to lead us into the heart of reconciliation; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For those who are ill and those who have asked for our prayers, remembering today Kurt, Debbie, and those we name now, either silently or aloud; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

That the Lord may comfort those in the waning days of life, and bring to life eternal those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, remembering today those we name now, either silently or aloud; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

For those on our diocesan prayer list St. Anne's in-the-Fields Church, Lincoln; St. Paul's Church, Natick; Trinity Chapel, Shirley; St. Mark's Church, Southborough; and in our Congregations: Acolytes, that they may be strengthened and empowered in their various ministries, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. *Ho - san - na*

in the high - est. *Bless - ed* is he who comes

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes tied across measures.

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, O Father,

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, 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.***

Let us pray.

***Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

EASTER BLESSING

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.***

CLOSING HYMN #529

In Christ there is no East or West

Unison or harmony C

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 Join hands, disciples of the faith, what -
3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther -
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

Chord markings: Bb, F, Dm7, G7, C, F, C, G, C, Am

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

DISMISSAL #S175A

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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This service has been conducted in accordance with the diocesan guidelines for worship with careful attention to social distancing. We look forward to the time when we all can come together for worship.

Special thanks to our *schola cantorum* (small choir) for their singing and reading this morning.

PRAYER LIST - If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please email or call the office. Please remember to keep these people in your daily prayers:

Carroll & Sue, Claire & Don, Tracey, Zack, Nancy, Bev, Beth, Steven, Susan, Hawk & Matthew, Karen, Erin Kate, Leah, Sophia, James & Judith, Lula Mae, AJ, Florence, Jamie, Janet M., Gayle, Tim, Boppy, Delores, Ben, the Brennan Family, Sarah, Julie, Jackson, Eileen & Larry, Gerry, Michele, Ken & Barbie, Gary, Phyllis, Meredith, the Howe family, Fr. Kevin, Frank, Susan, Joan, Nancy, Bob, Janet G., MaryAlice, Jackie, Celia, Kevin F., Barbara, Lori, Fr. John, Jennifer, Priscilla, Bonnie, Robert, Maggie, Daron, Judy, Kurt, and Debbie.

The people respond with the words in ***bold italics***.