



HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Celebrant: The Rev. Dirk C. Reinken (he/him)

Organist: Brit Montoro (they/them)

Welcome to St. Peter's Church! We are one congregation gathered in person and online to worship God in the beauty of holiness. We invite you to use the time before the service for quiet reflection and preparation for worship. Thank you also for silencing your cell phone while in church. Parts of this service may be live-streamed on our YouTube channel; the first seven rows are visible on camera. The closest restroom is located in the hall through the double doors at the front right of the church. An usher can help with directions.

All baptized Christians, of any denomination and of any age, are welcome to receive Communion at God's table. You may also request a blessing instead by crossing your arms over your chest. All Hymnal items are found in the red Hymnal 1982; numbers preceded by an "S" are found at the front of the Hymnal. All LEVAS hymns are found in the red and black Lift Every Voice and Sing II. All BCP items are found in the black Book of Common Prayer by page number. Items with an asterisk () are at the 10:00 am service only. Additional resources are found on our website: stpetersfreehold.org.*

Prelude*	“Menuet” Brit Montoro, piano	Amy Beach
Processional*	“Over the chaos of the empty waters”	Hymnal, #177
The Easter Acclamation		BCP, p.355
Hymn of Praise*	“Glory to God in the highest”	Hymnal, #S280
Collect of the Day	The Lord be with you. And also with you.	

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 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

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Clerk of the Vestry: Erin MacKenzie

www.stpetersfreehold.org

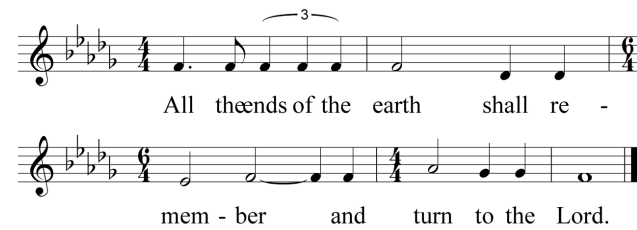
water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

Psalm 22:24-30

At the 8:00 am service, the Psalm is said in unison. At the 10:00 am service, the refrain is sung by the Choir, and then repeated by the Congregation. The Psalm is said in unison, and the refrain is repeated once more at the conclusion.



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- 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 for ever!"
- 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.

The 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 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*

"Thou art the Way"

Hymnal, #457

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Response: **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."

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, all children through 6th grade are welcome to join us for Wiggle and Worship in the Hein Room above the Chapel. Parents and caregivers are also welcome. We return at the Peace.

Sermon

The Rev. Canon Susanna Cates
Canon for Formation & Vocations
Diocese of New Jersey

Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People

Form VI

BCP, p. 392

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

Offertory Anthem*

"Alleluia"
St. Peter's Choir

Gordon Young

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

Sanctus*

Hymnal, #S129

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

Fraction Anthem*

Hymnal, #S154

All baptized Christians of any age are welcome to receive Communion. Please follow guidance from the usher on when to leave your pew for Communion. If needed for mobility reasons, Communion can be brought to you—simply tell an usher. Gluten-free hosts are available if needed.

Communion Hymn*

"Lord, I want to be a Christian"

LEVAS, #138

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

The Blessing & Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Processional*

"We sing the praise of him who died"

Hymnal, #471

Postlude*

"Hallelujah"
Brit Montoro, organ

Rosephanye Powell