



## ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Everyone's welcome. Nobody's perfect. Anything's possible.

### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 8:15 am

**Opening Music, Hymn #8**      Morning has broken

#### Opening Welcome

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!** (*Said three times*)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord      *People* **Thanks be to God**

## Second Reading

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord      *People* **Thanks be to God**

## The Sequence

Celtic Alleluia

Fintan O'Carroll (1922 – 1981)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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## The Gospel

John 15:1-8

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*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."

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Homily

Christine Trainor

## The Prayers

*Celebrant* O God, we are grateful to gather together to praise you this morning. You enliven us as we look around and see those whom we love and with whom we walk this way of life in your name. With full hearts we offer the joys and sorrows that we bring to you this day...

*The people add their blessings and petitions.*

*Celebrant* Bind up these prayers, O God, and consider them in the light of your providence. We pray with confidence that you hear us and with gratitude that you intercede in our lives; in the undying hope and glory of the Resurrection. **Amen.**

## Welcome and Announcements

## The Holy Communion

May God 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 right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God. You make all things and call them good. You love us into being. You form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life. When we turn away, and our love fails, your love remains steadfast. And so, with all your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name as we join in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

Rose Hill Mass

John Karl Hirten (b. 1956)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Blest is the  
 One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*from the Rose Hill Mass by John Karl Hirten*  
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*The Celebrant continues*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us, by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom. We who were dispersed are now your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

On the third day you raised him from the dead and revealed him to the women who came to the tomb to care for his body. On that day he was recognized by the disciples in the breaking of the bread. And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, We offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, praising you and blessing you:

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine, make them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is a shortened version from a liturgy composed by St. Gregory of Nyssa, SF*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* We say together the words our Savior taught us:

**All 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **The Invitation**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the people of God.  
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

### **During Communion**

**The Prayer After Communion** (*All say together in unison*)

**All 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

*Celebrant* And now, may the God of all creation, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, equip you with all you need for doing God's will in the world. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn #529**

In Christ there is no East or West

### **The Sending Forth**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ, Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!**

