

St. John's Episcopal Church

**The Fifth Sunday of
Easter**

May 3, 2015



*Proclaiming the Gospel, promoting justice, and preparing a diverse
community of seekers to reflect the welcoming love of Christ.*

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A Note on Today's Readings

The Fifth Sunday of Easter—Year B

Welcome to our parish. On the final Sundays of Easter, our attention is directed to the results in our lives of Jesus' dying and rising: the results of Baptism and Eucharist. The Gospel reading today describes our life in Christ. That life is characterized by our love for Jesus as the ground of our faithfulness. We are as intimately bound up in the life of the risen Jesus as the branches of a plant, drawing our new life directly from him.

Like a vine growing new branches, the early Church began to spread beyond Jerusalem almost immediately, bound together in Christ's love and led by the Spirit. In today's reading from Acts, Philip, one of the seven ordained with Stephen, preaches the Gospel to an official of the Queen of Ethiopia. This preaching was prompted by the official's reading of the "Suffering Servant" passage from Isaiah (52:13-53:12). The Ethiopian is converted and baptized on the spot.

Today's reading from First John carries on his theme of our share in God's self-giving love (*agape*). We are to reflect in our own living and ministry that same love which was manifested to us in Jesus' dying and rising. This is the life he shares with us.

We, the People of God, gather in Eucharist to remember and share the story of God's love for us. Our actions in Eucharist are a liturgical expression of self-giving love toward God and others. As we receive Holy Communion, God implants in us Jesus' own life and equips us to extend the divine love to all people in concrete actions of ministry and proclamation.

Holy Eucharist

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 03, 2015

Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

*Here, O Lord, your servants gather [Sekai
no tomo to te o tsunagi]*

WLP 793

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

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 Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The following is sung, all standing

Opening Anthem

S 280

- 1 Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
- 2 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
- 4 you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;

5 you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

6 For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

7 you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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.*

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

All sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Remain seated.

Psalm 22:24-30

BCP p. 610

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

A Reading from the First letter of John.

Reader
People

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Sequence

All stand.

More Love to Thee, O Christ

LEVAS 87

1. More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee!
2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest;
3. Then shall my ev - ery breath Sing out your praise;

1. Hear thou the prayer I make On bend - ed knee;
2. Now thee a - lone I seek, Give what is best;
3. This be the on - ly song My heart shall raise;

1. This is my ear - nest plea;
2. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
3. This still my prayer shall be:

More love to thee, More love to thee!

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Myers

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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,
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.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

In this glorious season of resurrection, we pray for the whole church. We pray fervently for Christian unity with great diversity of expression. Today we pray especially for The Anglican Communion, The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, 105th Archbishop of Canterbury; The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop. Remove our false belief that we must all be alike and help us to see the beauty of variety among all who celebrate this Easter day. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We pray for these United States, our Commonwealth of Kentucky, and our region. Bless our leaders who offer their gifts in service. We pray that they may hear and listen to your guidance in governing with justice. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We pray for your beautiful and awe-inspiring creation, the whole world. Heighten our awareness of how your creation is connected. Give us a sense of care for our earth and all who live on it. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We pray for our local community, for Corbin, and Knox, Whitley, and Laurel Counties. Guide us in the ways we may improve and strengthen our region, especially in providing meaningful jobs, feeding the hungry, and soothing the suffering. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We pray for those who suffer and those who are in any trouble. Especially today, we pray for Sabrina, Connie, Erin, Thelma, Juanita, Jerry, Mossie, Shirley, Calvin, Bill, Raymond & Elaine, James, the Cornelison Family, Debbie, Sharae, Linda, Fred, Avery, Michael, Mason, Nellie, Leroy, Mary Ann, Katie, Thalia, Craig, Barbara, Logan, the Gill Family, June, Amanda & James, Buck, Daphne, Wayne, Fay, Katrina, Shazia, Teresa, Clay, Rena, and the Beams – Jackson Family. Relieve their suffering. Restore their strength. Comfort them during these difficult times. Help them to know there is always resurrection. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

During this joyous Easter season, we thank you for all the blessings of our lives. We pray especially for those celebrating birthdays this week; Taegon Douglas, John Monroe, Christin Roberson, Tom McClure and Richard Danser. We pray in thanksgiving for being part of a church where everyone is welcome. *(Please add your own thanksgivings.)* We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We remember all those who serve in our Armed Forces, especially Silvestre. We pray for your love and your peace to abound so war and fighting are no longer necessary. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

We pray for all who have died, especially Treston. We pray that she is with the risen Christ where there are no tears and no pain. We only love him:

He lives to carry us home

The Celebrant continues

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*

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S 125

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.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.



The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. One body are we, for though many, we share one bread.
Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

He Lives

LEVAS 42

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; ___
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, ___
 3. Re - joice, re - joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing. ___

1. I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say; ___
 2. And though my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair; ___
 3. E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! ___

1. I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, —
 2. I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast, —
 3. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find, —

1. And just the time I need Him — He's al - ways near. —
 2. The day of His ap - pear - ing will come at last. —
 3. None oth - er is so lov - ing, — so good and kind. —

He lives, — He lives, — Christ Je - sus lives — to - day! —
 He lives, He lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. —

He lives, — He lives, — sal - va - tion to im - part! —
 He lives, He lives,

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart. —

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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

The priest blesses the people, saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Postcommunion Hymn

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Hymnal 304

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Vestry Notes

2015 Goals: The Vestry has adopted the following goals for 2015, in line with our recently adopted Mission Statement;
Proclaiming the Gospel, promoting justice, and preparing a diverse community of seekers to reflect the welcoming love of Christ:

- Support Al-Anon group meeting at the Church.
- List St. John's Church on the Integrity and Believe Out Loud websites as an open and welcoming church, especially for people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning.
- Remodel space for use as a sacristy.
- Repurpose the parlor.
- Serve as a site for the KCEOC Summer Lunch program for youth ages 18 and under.

March Financial Report

March 2015 (5 Sundays)	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Monthly Budget	Actual Monthly
Total Revenue	\$12,907	\$16,689	\$4,302	\$6,531
Total Expense	\$12,907	\$14,333	\$4,302	\$3,888
Difference	0	2,356	0	2,643