

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:30 a.m. choral service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist
Tamsin Lucey, Reader

Prelude: *“Morning Has Broken” -Hayes, arr. by D. Wagner, 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.*

Processional hymn #448

Words: Benjamin Webb; Music: Deus tuorum militum

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore; for us temptations sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

Acclamation

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

Collect for Purity

Gloria: S-280 Glory to you, Lord

Setting: John Rutter

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God and the Father. Amen.,

Collect *(said by all)*

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: Reader A reading from the book of Acts

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.

Acts 8:26-40

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

Silence

PSALM 22:24-30 *said by all, in unison* **BCP p. 612**

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.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel John 15:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People** **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sermon *Fr. Richard Signore*

Prayers of the People III

Prayer Book, p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Prayer for the Parish - O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Confession & Absolution

BCP, p. 360

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Peace

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn: "Recit de Nazard" -Clerambault, 1954 Editions Musicales de La Schola Cantorum

The Great Thanksgiving B

Prayer Book, p. 367

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: WLP #876

**The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.
One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.**

Communion Music: "Land of Rest" -Callahan, 1982 Concordia Publishing Co.

Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Post Communion Prayer

Blessing

Recessional Hymn #487

Words: George Herbert; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast: such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “*Trumpet in Dialogue*” -Clerambault, Mercury Music Corporation

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