

Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 2, 2021

Deming Park — Lions Shelter 1

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Christ is alive!* (Hymnal 182, stanzas 1,2,4,5)

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev. Music: Truro, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872), alt.
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One Alleluia, Christ is risen!
All **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Collect of the Day

One God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

One 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.

All **Amen.**

Lesson 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Leader 24 Hallelujah! My praise is of God in the great assembly; *
All **I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship.**
25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek God shall praise: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow down.

27 For kingship belongs to God; *
who rules over the nations.

28 All who sleep in the earth bow down in worship to God alone; *
all who go down to the dust fall before God.

29 My descendants shall serve God; *
they shall be known as the God's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that God has done. Hallelujah!

The Gospel *John 15:1-8*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All **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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Drew Downs

The Nicene Creed

All 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.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon Christ has gathered us as branches of the true vine.
Let us offer prayers to God who does for us whatever we ask.

Leader For the whole world and all the churches of God,
especially the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East,
our companion dioceses of Brasilia, Haiti, and South Sudan,
St. Philips, Indianapolis, and our 7th Street church neighbors.

All **Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For this holy gathering and our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all the baptized whose faces shine with the light of Christ.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all who minister and for all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all those in danger and need:

the sick and the suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families,
the hungry, homeless, and oppressed.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For those who have asked our prayers:

Sheila Carl, Sally Newlin, Robin Rolt, Megan Price,
Richard Hillier, Jonnee Western, John Bonner, Martha Hafner,
Ellie Thomas, Joe Kuhn, Justin Mendoza, Kay Griswold,
David Mier, Patrick Murphy, Dave Thomas, John Newlin,
Steve Hoyt, Jhansi Ghogle, Grace Daniel, Jonan Daniel,
Jordan Daniel, Jimmy McKellar, and Jerry Stephens.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the dying and the dead, especially David Fuller.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love:

those celebrating birthdays, especially Joanna Benskin (5/4),
James Greene (5/4), and Sally Newlin (5/6),
those celebrating baptismal anniversaries, especially Carol Hutz (5/3),
Jessica Wayton (5/7), and Kurt Wayton (5/7),
those celebrating confirmation anniversaries,
especially Chip Chillington (5/3), Martha Hafner(5/4),
and David Nearpass (5/4).

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering Jesus mother Mary, St. Philip, and all the saints,
let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Presider

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the
prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace to love our brothers
and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The Peace

One The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant ...through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us!

All Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Hymn *Good Christians all, rejoice, and sing* (Hymnal 205, stanzas 1,3,4)

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

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

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Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant God of abundance,
All you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia!
All Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

215 North Seventh Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807-3103
812-232-5165
www.ststephensth.org
Worship Sunday 10 am

The Right Reverend Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, *Bishop of Indianapolis*

The Reverend Drew Downs, *Rector* rector@ststephensth.org

Rector's cell phone — 770.755.8067

The Reverend Deborah J. Veach, *Deacon* deacon@ststephensth.org

Dennis Dieken, *Organist/Choirmaster/Secretary* officeadmin@ststephensth.org

Vestry

2022–Sandy Bush, William Hughes, Geoffrey Wayton, *Jr. Warden*

2023–Linda Airhart, *Sr. Warden*, John Hegedus, Peter Reed

2024–William Denton, Andrew Miller, Michelle Moulton, *Clerk*

Peggy Allen, *Treasurer*