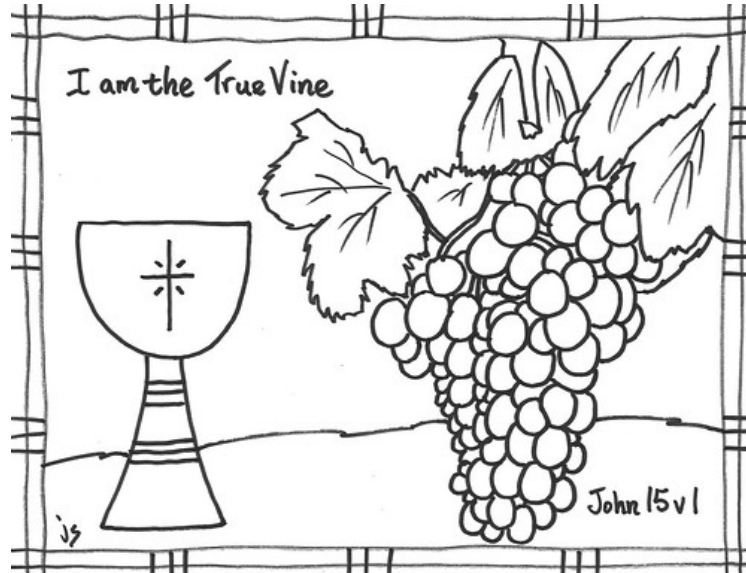


Fifth Sunday of Easter



**Sunday, April 28, 2024
10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two**

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**806 THOMPSON ROAD
RICHMOND, TX 77469
281.342.2147
WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG**

**THE REV. RALPH B. MORGAN, RECTOR
THE REV. NANCY WILKES, DEACON**

Calvary welcomes and embraces all who join us in doing the work of Christ in our community.



THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN - Let it Rise

*Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the praises of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise*

*Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the joy of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise*

*Oh let it rise
Oh let it rise*

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

CHILDREN AGES 5 THRU 5TH GRADE MAY FOLLOW THE CROSS TO CHILDREN'S CHAPEL DURING THE GLORIA

GLORIA

Hymn # S-280

***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 the Father. Amen.***

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

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 SONG - Jesus, Name Above All Names

*Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word*

*Jesus, Loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the Universe, Light of the World*

*Jesus, Way of Salvation
King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
The Way, the Truth and the Life,
Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend*

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

SERMON RESPONSE

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

Form III, BCP 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 peoples.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor our Bishops; Ralph our Priest; and Nancy our Deacon.
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 the 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, especially _____;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially _____;
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.

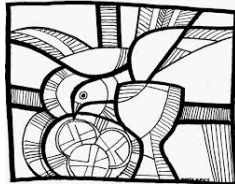
Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
(Silence)

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

It has been a general practice in the Episcopal Church to omit the confession of sin during the season of Easter. The idea behind this practice is that the faithful have had all of Lent to confess their sins, as well as to ponder how they might live a more holy life. When Easter comes the time for confessing has ended, and we enter into a time of extended grace.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(The priest adds a proper preface.)*

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

HYMN # S-125

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

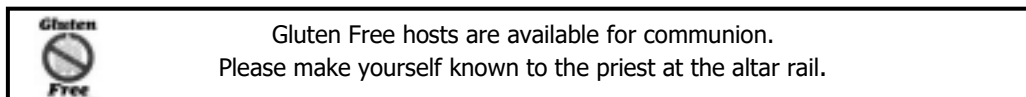
***Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be Your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On earth as in Heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, and the power,
And the glory are Yours now,
And forever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



COMMUNION SONG 1 - Flow River Flow

***Flow river flow. Flow river flow
Till your love all people know
And by your shores do grow***

***O Lord you planted a tree
Upon the Jordan's distant shore
The tree you planted was me
And I thirst no more***

Chorus:

***Not worries but fruit I now bear
As I cast upon you all my cares
There is fruit in each and every season
Born by Jesus your holy Son***

COMMUNION SONG 2 - Goodness of God

1. *I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God*
2. *I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God*

Chorus:
*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

Bridge:
*Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (these words may differ from time to time)

CLOSING SONG - Times of Refreshing

1. *Well, I thank you, Lord, that you are my Savior.
You're my strength and you're the rock on which I stand.
You give me life and a grace that's greater,
When I humble myself beneath your mighty hand.*
2. *For the day will come when we'll all be gathered.
And the sun will rise with healing in its wings.
And all the years of pain won't seem to matter,
When our eyes behold our Teacher and our King.*

Chorus:
*You bring times of refreshing
You bring times of refreshing
You bring times of refreshing to my soul
When I'm weary from the fight
And trying to do what's right
You bring times of refreshing to my soul*

THE DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Kathleen Harte in thanksgiving for Jens and Kareem McKinnon and children.
God's great mercy to them.**

Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God for a Blessing + Remember A Loved One

The notebook to sign up for flower offerings is in the back of the Parish Hall.

Please stop by and sign up or contact the church office. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

Calvary Worship Service Times

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

713-818-6323

nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

2024 Pledged: \$555,625

2024 Given: \$186,910

