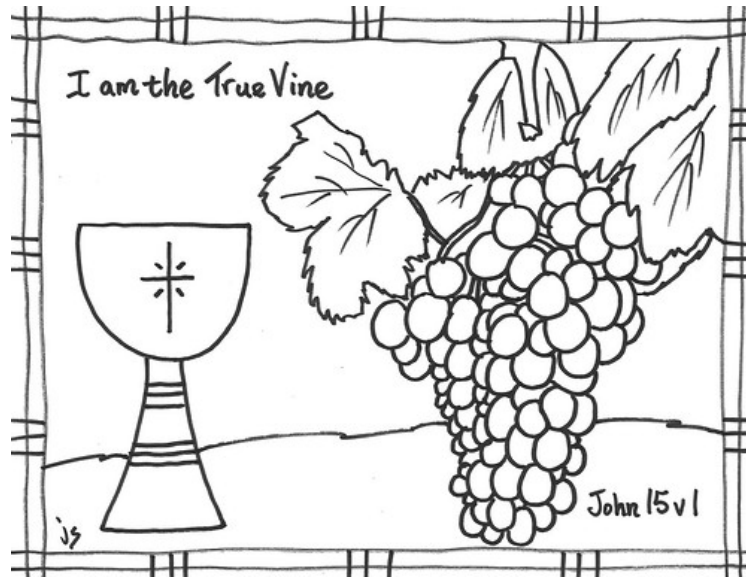


Fifth Sunday of Easter



April 28, 2024

SUNDAY NIGHT ALIVE

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 SONG - Blessed Assurance

1. *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*
2. *Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above,
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

Chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

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.**

GLORIA

*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 together.

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 HYMN - Indescribable

1. *From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creations revealing your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming*

2. *Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?
None can fathom*

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And you know them by name
You are amazing, God*

*All powerful, untamable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God
You are amazing, God
You are amazing, God*

*Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And you love me the same*

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 - Shout to the Lord

**My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise,
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You.**

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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.**

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 - Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

1. *'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His word.
Just to rest upon His promise,
just to know "Thus saith the Lord."*

2. *O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood.
And in simple faith to plunge me,
'neath the healing, cleansing flood.*

3. *Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease.
Just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest and joy and peace.*

Chorus:
*Jesus, Jesus how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus precious Jesus.
O for grace to trust Him more.*

4. *I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, Friend.
And I know that Thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 361

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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, of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory (repeat)

Hosanna in the highest,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (repeat)

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, 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,

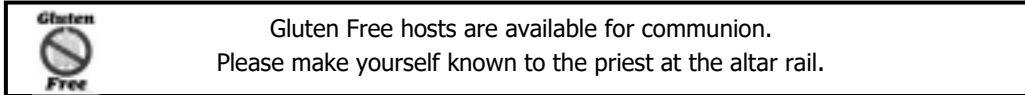
for ever and ever. Amen.

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 - Let Us Break Bread Together

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***
- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***
- 3. Let us bow round the altar on our knees,
Let us bow round the altar on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***
- 4. Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

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.***

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 - Sing to the Lord

*Sing to the Lord with all of your heart;
Sing of the glory that's due to his name.
Sing to the Lord with all of your soul,
Join all of heaven and earth to proclaim:*

*Sing to the Lord with all of your mind,
With understanding give thanks to the King.
Sing to the Lord with all of your strength,
Living our lives as a praise offering.*

*You are the Lord, the Saviour of all,
God of creation, we praise you.
We sing the songs that awaken the dawn,
God of creation we praise you.*

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

