



Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**BCP 357**

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Collect for the Day:** 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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The First Lesson**

### **First Reading: A Reading from the Book of Acts**

#### **Chapter 4: 5-12**

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

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### **Psalm 22: 24-30**

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live forever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's forever.

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen**

## **The Second Lesson**

### **A Reading from the First Book of John Chapter 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

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **The Gospel**

### **The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to 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

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

**The Reverend James Jacob**

### **The Nicene Creed**

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.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our  
prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. We are asked to pray  
for the retired clergy of the Diocese by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island  
Cycle of Prayer.

(silence)

For the mission of the church throughout the world, that all be led by the Holy  
Spirit to proclaim the good news that God is love, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For plants and animals, for clean water and air, for favorable weather, and for  
the whole of creation, that you guide us to serve as good stewards of the earth,  
let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For judges, lawyers, and all court officials, for the leaders of government, and  
for all who seek justice in this world, that all be treated with fairness and equity.  
We especially remember our service members: Jake Knight, Elizabeth Butler  
and Matthew Paiva, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are poor, hungry, bereaved, distressed, and sick especially  
Rebecca, Violetta, Rob, Don, Lynne, Sue, Vinny, Ronnie, Norman, Ray,  
Denise, Paul, Brad, Elaine, David, Michael, Bob and MJ, and for those who  
provide care and comfort, that all find assurance of God's unending love for  
them, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

I ask your thanksgiving for the looming availability of the COVID vaccine and  
for those on the front lines especially Lynne Schoer, Cheryl Boscia, Lyndsey  
Bain, Amy Sundstrom, Karen Furia, Rachel Briden, Paul Correa and Alan  
Cotnoir, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who yearn for meaning and community with others, that the Holy Spirit lead them to mentors in the faith; for those visiting this congregation; and for those who are away with family and friends, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the confessors of the faith in past generations, especially those who have died in the Lord, that they inspire future generations to proclaim the gospel, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Concluding prayer by the Celebrant*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin:**

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*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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

### **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

### **Offertory**

*Celebrant* I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

### **The Holy Communion**

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says:*

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 him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.*

*Then 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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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 forever. **Amen.**

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*In place of, or in addition to, the preceding, some other suitable  
anthem may be used.*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

**The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

*and may add*

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for  
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
with thanksgiving.

A spiritual communion is personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

**Beloved Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.**

**I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

*or with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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**

**Dismissal**

**Closing hymn: “Jesus Christ is risen today”**

**H 207**

**1 Jesus Christ is risen today,  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once upon the cross,  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
who endured the cross and grave,  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**3 But the pains which he endured,  
our salvation have procured;  
now above the sky he's King,  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**4 Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love;  
praise him, all ye heavenly host,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

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