

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome

Sentence I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. *John 15.5*

Processional Hymn **RB #282** **I Feel the Winds of God Today (v. 1 – 3)**

1.
I feel the winds of God today,
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
If hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

2.
It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
If cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
Lord, let me feel thy freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

3.
If ever I forget thy love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears thy name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
thou wilt not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

THE GREETING

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

Celebrant May his grace and peace be with you.

People

May he fill our hearts with joy.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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
People

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 22:24-30

Please remain seated

Leader

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him

People

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

Leader

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

People

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

Leader

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

People

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

Leader

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

All

Father, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

2nd Reading:

1 John 4:7-21

Reader

A reading from the first letter of John

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 Saviour 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 judgement, 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.

Reader
People

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Celebrant
All

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant
All

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory be to thee, O Lord

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. 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. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.

Celebrant
All

The Gospel of Christ
Praise be to thee, O Christ

Homily

The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

THE CREED

Celebrant
All

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "**Hear us, Lord of glory!**"

Leader That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. Hear us, Lord of glory! That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

All **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.
Silence is kept.

Celebrant

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

And with thy spirit.

The members of the community greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn # 482 Come and Journey with a Saviour (v. 1 – 6)

1.

Come and journey with a Saviour
who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters,
and who loves us on the earth.

Refrain:

**Come and journey; come and journey
With a Saviour who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters;
In the Spirit we are one.**

2.

Come and journey, journey inward,
come and seek him deep within,
where he meets us in our living,
In our striving and our sin. **Refrain**

3.

Come and journey, journey outward,
telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory,
of his cross and of the shame. **Refrain**

4.

Come and journey, journey outward,
where the cross call us to care,
where injustice and where hunger
and the poor call us to share. **Refrain**

5.

Come and journey, journey upward,
Sing his praise, offer prayer.
In the storm and in the stillness
find his presence everywhere. **Refrain.**

6.

Come and journey, journey onward;
all our gifts we now shall bring
to the building of a city
that is holy, Christ its King. **Refrain.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant

Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna
in the highest.**

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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."

All

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await
his coming in glory;**

Celebrant

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant
All

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Celebrant
All

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant
All

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant
All

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant
All

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant

Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

People:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, now be enthroned in my heart; may you who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant
All

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn #485 (tune: Hyfrydol) Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v 1 – 3)

1.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
til in heaven we take our place,
til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia!