

Saturday Joy! April 28, 2024

Processional Hymn In Christ there is no East or West

(H-529)

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

2 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be! Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North, all Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

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**

Glory be to God on high, sang the angel chorus, [Chorus]

Glory to the Father, Sing of our creator. [Chorus]

Glory to the risen Son, Sing of our redeemer. [Chorus]

Glory to the Holy Ghost, Sing of our sustainer. [Chorus]

Glory to our Triune God, Glory in the highest.

[Chorus] Glory, Glory, Glory be on High.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from 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.**

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.

A Reading from I 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.**

Gospel Hymn Bind us together

*Bind us together, Lord Bind us together With cords that cannot be broken Bind us together,
Lord Bind us together Bind us together in Love*

There is only one God, There is only one King There is only one Body, That is why we sing.

*Bind us together, Lord Bind us together With cords that cannot be broken Bind us together,
Lord Bind us together Bind us together in Love*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**

15:1-8

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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**

The Sermon- Bishop Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner

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.

Prayers of the People - Great Fifty Days of Easter

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray.

Risen Lord, **Hear our Prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings he showers upon us: For our lives and for those whom we love, For the beauty of this home God has created for us, For our families and our friendships.

Risen Lord, **Hear our Prayer.**

Let us pray for the Church, that it may carry forward the redemptive works of God: For our clergy, For the many lay people who serve the church, and serve the world through the church. For those who gather here in worship and prayer.

Risen Lord, **Hear our Prayer.**

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline, And that justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up.

Risen Lord, **Hear our Prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, and those who struggle. That the hope born of Easter give them peace, acceptance and renewal, and that through their struggles they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores, and remembering those who have died.

Risen Lord, **Hear our Prayer.**

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Music “Sing, Men and Angels, Sing”

Presentation of Offering

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 our thanks and praise

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say:

Sanctus

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

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

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.

Alleluia Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music “How Great is Our God”

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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn Here is love

1 Here is love, vast as the ocean, lovingkindness as the flood: when the Prince of Life, our Ransom, shed for us His precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise? He can never be forgotten throughout heav'n's eternal days.

2 On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide; through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide. Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above, and heav'n's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

Dismissal: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We don't want to change you, rather we want to know you as we share our stories of faith with one another. If this is your first time with us, talk with an usher or the clergy and we will be happy to chat!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Rev. Dawn Stary! This weekend we are pleased to welcome the Reverend Dawn Stary and her family. Rev. Dawn is considering joining our clergy team and is here to get to know us and hear our story. Please make Dawn, Sim and Declan feel welcome!

Resurrection Hope Book Study: Mother Erica will be leading a book study on "Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter" by The Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas on Wednesday evenings at 6p via zoom. The book study will last five weeks from 4/10/24-5/8/24. Email Mother Erica for Zoom link: theRev.Roz@gmail.com

World Labyrinth Day: Walk for World Peace Saturday May 4th 9:00 AM World Labyrinth Day is an international event sponsored by the Labyrinth Society occurring annually on the first Saturday in May. Thousands of people around the world come together to participate in this moving meditation for world peace. Please join us for our 9 o'clock labyrinth walk behind the church at Grace in the Desert on Saturday May 4th and add your presence to this wave of energy and intention circling the globe for world peace. Everyone is welcome whether walking or sitting in the garden.

4/28 Saturday Joy! 4p: Celebrant and Preacher: Bishop Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner.; Lector: Jacquelyn Hayes; Usher: Lucille Biddle and Ray Clark; Acolyte: Ellen Stevens

Altar Guild: Myra Love, Barbara Ryhter. Ellen Stevens, Mamie Hechter, Edie Mingalone

Please send any announcements for the bulletin and e-newsletter to admin@graceofsummerlin.org and info@graceofsummerlin.org

We are a growing, inclusive community of faith that supports a variety of ministries and educates our children and all people through the traditions of the Episcopal Church

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church 2004 Spring Gate Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89134
(702) 838-7444 - graceofsummerlin.org