

MORNING PRAYER II EASTER V MAY 2, 2021

WELCOME

Good morning and welcome to St. Matthew Episcopal Church. It is a pleasure to worship with you on this fifth Sunday of Easter, and welcome The Rev. Michael Beaton Oakley as our preacher this morning. This service is in English. If you would like follow along, click on the link above the Facebook announcement for this service for a worship booklet.

If you have prayers for special intentions, please write them in the comment section on your Facebook page.

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Psalm for today is 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 for ever!"

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 for ever.
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 will be for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

A Reading from Acts

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.

Here ends the reading

Canticle 13 A Song of Praise

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; * you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; * we will praise you and highly exalt
 you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; * on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; * in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

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 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.

Here ends the reading

Canticle 18 A Song to the Lamb

Splendor and honor and kingly power * are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, * and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *, for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, * a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *, and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, * for ever and for evermore.

A Reading from the Gospel of John

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.”
Here ends the reading.

SERMON

The Rev. Michael Beaton Oakley

The Apostles' Creed

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.

THE PRAYERS

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Suffrages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of 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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Living Christ, you are risen from the dead! Love reigns! You are life stronger than death. Raise our eyes to see you as the new day dawns.

We pray for the Church. Today we offer our joy that we celebrate your glorious resurrection with our brothers and sisters around the world. Envelop your people with a sense of your risen presence, today and always.

(Silence)

For the community of faith, the church of the risen Christ, we pray:

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for our nation. God of hope, teach us the difference between reaching down and reaching out. Guide the many of privilege who determine the destinies of others. Lead us not only to share our wealth, but to enter with hope into the poverty of those who do not share our good fortune.

(Silence)

For our nation and for our common good, we pray:

Be with us and guide us, O God.

We pray for the whole world. God of creation you have given us a world of glorious diversity. Give us the eyes to see the beauty of all your creation. Give us the confidence to invite all into the bond of your love, that in unity with you, we may bring your peace, your goodness and your vision to all people.

(Silence)

For the welfare of our world, we pray:

Be with us and unite us, O God.

We pray for this community. God who came to earth as one of us, help us see you in each member of this community. Bless the many gifts of our members and keep before us the image of the Servant Jesus, that joined with Christ we remain ready to kneel with basin and towel before each other and before those you continue to bring into our midst.

(Silence)

For our community we pray:

Be with us and help us, O God.

We pray for all who suffer, especially N/ God of compassion, open our hearts to bind and heal in your name. Bless all of those who ask our prayers, and give us courage to learn the names of others. Be present, through us, to those who need your comfort.

(Silence)

For all who suffer and struggle, we pray:

Be with us and heal us, O God.

We pray for all who have died, especially N. God who has loved us from before birth and God who loves us beyond the grave, we remember those who have died in the glorious hope of the resurrection, and we remember those who mourn, that they may be assured with that same hope.

(Silence)

For all who have entered new life in Christ's resurrection, we pray:

Be with us and raise us, O God.

Glorious Lord of Life, we praise you, that by the wondrous resurrection of your Son, you have delivered us from sin and death and made your whole creation new; grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead, may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

ANNOUNCEMENTS