

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday April 28, 2024  
10:00AM

276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801  
570-278-2954

Office Hours: 8:15am until 3:00pm Monday – Thursday

[stpaulsmontrose@epix.net](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net)

<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Serving Montrose and surrounding communities  
With God's Love through Jesus Christ  
Since 1831

## The Holy Eucharist

Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude

Announcements

The Gathering Hymn    *In Christ there is no East or West*    Hymn 529

### THE WORD OF GOD

*Celebrant:* Alleluia, Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity

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.*

The Gloria

S 280

**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 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.**

## The First Lesson: 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

The Response: 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 be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Epistle: 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more* Hymn 296

**The Gospel:** John 15:1-8

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

***People:* 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.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 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.**

### The Prayers of the People

*Intercessor* As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, we seek to abide in the Spirit of love and bring our prayers to God, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Kevin our bishop, and Liz our Priest, that our faith may deepen, our hope be strengthened, and our love abound in deeds of loving service and justice. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, and those of Christ Church and St Marks, that we may continually draw life from Christ and bear a rich harvest of love and service for God's glory. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the grace of letting go, that God will help us to let go of those things which need to be pruned so that life and love may flow through us as signs of God's tender care. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who feel cut off from God, friends, themselves or life itself, that God will show them how they are connected and from whom they can draw life. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For an end to war and violence in all places, that God will turn hearts from destructive deeds, open pathways for dialogue, and protect the innocent from harm. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who are in need of our prayers, remembering especially..... that Christ will renew the gift of life within them and strengthen them in God's love. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those suffering from addiction and for those who love and support them, that we share God's healing love through our unity in witness and action. **Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, remembering especially.....that they may abide in the love of God forever. **Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, the Apostles Philip & James and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **Alleluia! To you, O Lord, we give praise and glory.**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace so that loving one another we may walk in the way that leads to eternal life. Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

## HOLY COMMUNION

*The Officiant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences on page [376](#), or with some other sentence of Scripture.*

The Offertory:      *God is love: let heaven adore him*      Hymn 379

The Doxology:      *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*      Hymn 380, v3

**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.**



*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 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; 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:

The Sanctus

S124

**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 Lord's Prayer

***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

The Fraction Anthem

S161

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

The Communion

*All Baptized Christians are invited to the Lord's Table to receive the Sacrament.*

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP page 365

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

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is

well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Parting Hymn            *Lord dismiss us with thy blessing*            Hymn 344

The Dismissal

The Postlude

### **Our Ministers Today:**

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Organist: Penny Jaggars

Altar Guild: Gaby Warriner

Announcements: John Warriner

Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski

Lector: John Warriner

Hospitality: Barb & Tom Undercoffler

### **Vestry**

John Warriner, Senior Warden

Vickie Calby, Junior Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Dan Graham

Vera Dunn

Jack Lasher

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Acclamation, collects, psalm, Eucharistic Prayer A, Lord's Prayer, and Blessing taken from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Public domain. Prayers of the People by the Rev. Canon Cliff Carr.

Hymnal 1982: 610 Lord, whose love through humble service, 529 In Christ there is no East or West, 296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more, 487 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life, 379 God is love: let heaven adore him, 344 Lord dismiss us with thy blessing, 512 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove. Copyright information on sheet music. Service music (text only) – *Gloria*-S280 Setting: Robert Powell, *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* Hymn 380, v. 3 -Old 100<sup>th</sup>, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510? - 1561?), *Sanctus* -S124 Setting from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), *Agnus Dei* -S161 Setting from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Reprinted/ Podcast/ Streamed with permission under One License #A-740835. All Rights Reserved