St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People:  The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Officiant: If then we have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

A Gathering Moment

The Psalm

Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
    because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
The cords of death entangled me;
    the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
    I came to grief and sorrow.
Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
    "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
How shall I repay the LORD *
    for all the good things he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation *
    and call upon the Name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
    in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD *
    is the death of his servants.
O LORD, I am your servant; *
    I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
    and call upon the Name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
    in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the LORD's house, *
    in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!
The Lessons

1 Peter 1: 17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Here ends the reading.


Now on that same day two of Jesus’ disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Here ends the reading.
Homily

The Prayers

Meaning: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Meaning: Let us Pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread:
Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
The Collect for St. Stephen’s Ministry Discernment

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide the Ministry Discernment Team, the Vestry, and the people of St. Stephen's in our search for a new priest. Empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church’s family; that guided by your Holy Spirit we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Officiant: I now invite you to add your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession, either aloud or silently.

If you would like to share your prayer aloud, please unmute your microphone.
When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.

Officiant: 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 our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. And the blessing of God, creator, redeemer, and life-giving Spirit be with you always. Amen.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Officiant and Homilist: The Reverend Catherine Nichols
Moderator: Joe McVeigh  Readers: John McWilliams, Meg Fitch  Intercessor: Susanne Peck
The service comes from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.