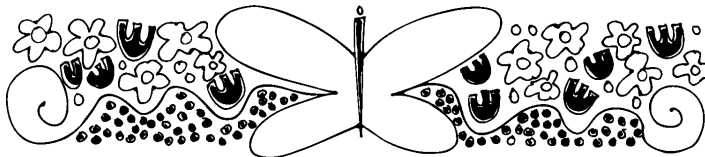




Saint Matthew Episcopal Church

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

The Liturgy of The Holy Eucharist II

Procession to the Altar

Hymn #390

Praise to the Lord

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **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 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

A Reading from Acts

(7:55-60)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for

the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

A Reading from 1 Peter (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

You Are My Hiding Place

You are my hiding place, you always fill my heart,
With songs of deliverance, whenever I am afraid.
I will trust in You, I will trust in You.

Let the weak say I am strong in the strength of the Lord. (repeat)

I will trust in you.

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The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

(14:1-14)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn

You Are My Hiding Place

You are my hiding place, you always fill my heart,
With songs of deliverance, whenever I am afraid.
I will trust in You, I will trust in You.

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The Sermon

Silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed (Standing, as able.)

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

Alleluia! Our glorious God has raised Jesus from death to life; let every heart be filled with praise. Alleluia!

Sanctify your creation as abundant new life now bursts forth.

That all may share in the wholeness promised to our broken world.

Guide those in authority to transcend the barriers that separate the human family and build together an everlasting peace, praying especially for an end to all war, terror and violence in every heart and land.

That our world may know the blessings of life in you.

Encourage your Church to celebrate the resurrection with joy, committing ourselves to the work of reconciliation.

That Christ's Body may be One.

Empower your ministers to proclaim boldly the message of the resurrection.

That all may come to see you as our Risen Lord.

Inspire us to live faithfully our Baptismal vows and to partake lovingly of the Sacred Bread and Wine.

That we may be an Easter people.

Assist those who suffer or are in need; the poor, the lonely, the disabled.

That they too may share in your abundant life.

Embrace those who have died with your eternal love.

That they may rejoice in your presence forever more.

Hear our special intercessions for this day, O Lord, as we pray: for the Anglican Communion, especially the Dioceses of Sokoto - (Kaduna, Nigeria), Central Solomons - (Melanesia), Soroti - (Uganda), Southwark - (England), Southwell & Nottingham - (York, England), The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain - (Extra Provincial), and The Church in Wales; our diocese, especially Grace, Bainbridge Island; St. Barnabas, Bainbridge Island; St. Paul's, Bremerton; and our parish; that your Holy Spirit would guide and direct your Church throughout the world to be a sign of your Kingdom;

We pray for the deployed and their families, especially for those we now name;

We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially for Lyn, Areewa, Marisa, Rico, Saray, Leif, Kari, Kathryn, Milana, Jackie, Elianny, Glen, Gary, Marilyn, Justin & Kendra, Alex, Janae, Travon, Debbie, Cindy, Scott, Mike, Kim, Mike, Michele, Bob, Garry, Emerson, Peyton, Samantha, Marie, Robert, Hope, and for those we now name;

We thank you for all the blessings of this life especially for those we now name;

We pray also for those who have died, especially Nancy Pawlicki, and those we now name;

We praise you and bless you, O Christ.
We praise you and bless you.

Celebrant

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

In keeping with the ancient custom of the Church, the confession is omitted during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Offertory

Our Sunday loose cash offerings go to our Emergency Aid Fund, which directly serves families and individuals in need within our community. Your generosity makes saying "yes" to those who need help the most possible.



The Great Thanksgiving – A

The Celebrant faces the people and says

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues
Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day 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 Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept..

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All persons are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion in one or both of the elements or receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts and alcohol-free wine are available upon

request at the rail. If you have yet to be baptized and are interested in learning more about this sacrament, please see one of the clergy following the liturgy.

If you do not wish to come forward for Communion or a blessing, or if you are attending the liturgy virtually, you are invited to pray the following from The St. Augustine's Prayer Book.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray

Celebrant and People

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.**

Procession to the Neighborhood

Hymn #636

How firm a foundation

St. Matthew Mission Statement

To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**
