

# WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S

*Come Find God*

10:00 a.m. Sunday, May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## MORNING PRAYER

### PRELUDE

### OPENING

*Officiant:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### OPENING HYMN:

“HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL”

WORSHIP & REJOICE

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Officiant:* Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People:** Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### INVITATORY & PSALTER

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

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

**All:** Glory to the Father †, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen!

*Officiant:* Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed.

**People:** O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

### CHRIST OUR PASSOVER (PASCHA NOSTRUM)\*

**All:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

**PSALM 22:24-30**

My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of  
those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall  
praise him:  
"May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and  
turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall  
bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow  
down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before  
him.

**My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for  
ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people  
yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**FIRST READING**

**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.**

**CANTICLE**

**A SONG OF THE LAMB**

**All: Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, whose judgements are true and just. Praise our God, all you his servants, all who fear him, both small and great. The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns: let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory. For the marriage of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready. Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding banquet of the Lamb. To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

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."

*Officiant:* The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*The Rev. Erin Flinn*

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**All: 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

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

**All: 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.**

*Officiant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People: And grant us your salvation.**

*Officiant:* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People: Let your people sing with joy.**

*Officiant:* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**People: For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Officiant:* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

*Officiant:* Let your way be known upon earth;

**People: Your saving health among all nations.**

*Officiant:* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

*Officiant:* Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## THE COLLECT

*Officiant:* 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

*Leader:* Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President, Joe; our governor, Ned; for military personnel known to us: Philip Austin, Joshua Bradbury, Nick Foydl, Charles Whately, James Matthews, and Will Owen; and for all who fight and struggle for freedom and justice for every person in this land. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We rejoice with those who have cause for joy, especially those who celebrate birthdays this month: Levi Kormos, Dan Johnson, Elizabeth Kormos, Daniel Cobleigh, Brylee Lisitano, Louise Pear, Alex Jones, Diana Delecke, Reed Laffan, Robert Fiala, Micaylah Phillips; Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for all who are sick with COVID-19, for essential workers who face increased health risks, and for those who have commended themselves to our prayers: Melissa Bergman, Frank DiFiglia; Elisabeth; Josephine Howard; Meg; John; Debbie; Mary; Ann; Jane Brothers; Lori Saltus; Jeff Sultaire; Pat Goodrich; Chris Fazzino; Dan Hamel; Maureen Sheehan; Chris Morgen; Ann Johnson; Gary Savona; Jim McKerley; Sonny; and Phillis Jones. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Bert and Bella, and all who have passed away during this pandemic; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

**All:** 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 the world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## **THE PEACE**

*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Thank you for your generous support. Don't carry cash or check? Text your donation to 860.333.6860*

## **A BLESSING FOR MARYANN AND THOM**

We celebrate and congratulate all those who have wedding anniversaries this month, and offer this prayer: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that it represents the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they celebrate their anniversary, that they may continue to love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

And to all those with birthdays this week, known and unknown to us, we pray: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **BLESSING\***

*Officiant:* Life is short, And we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

*Leader:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

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**THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHENS

<b>Sunday, May 2</b>	11am Zoom Coffee Hour
<b>Tuesday, May 4</b>	8am Morning Prayer (Online)
<b>Thursday, May 6</b>	8am Morning Prayer (Online) 12pm National Day of Prayer – Moodus Town Green
<b>Friday, May 7</b>	6:30pm Youth Group
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	10am Sunday Service (Online)

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE



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\* Indicates places where it is appropriate to stand (or kneel), as you are able.

■ Indicates places where it is traditional to cross yourself, should you desire.