

**Easter 5**

**May 6, 2012**



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**1512 Willow**  
**Blytheville, AR 72315**

**Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas**  
**Rev. Fr. John Scott Trotter**

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**[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)**  
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# Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Opening Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #492 - Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness,

## Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** *Christ 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

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #280*

- 1 Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.
- 2 Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,
- 4 you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;
- 5 you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.
- 6 For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,
- 7 you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## 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.*

*The people sit.*

## The Word of God

### First Reading

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>26</sup> Then 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.) <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
People  
Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Psalm 31:1-5,15-16**

*BCP p. 622*

*In te, Domine, speravi*

- 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 period of silence is kept.*

## **Second Reading**

A reading from The First Letter of John.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader

Hear wha the Spirit is saying to God's people

People

Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **Sequence Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #559 Lead us heavenly Father lead us

## **Gospel**

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

Glory to you Lord Christ

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not

abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord  
People  
Praise to you Lord Christ

*The people sit.*

## **Sermon**

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All say together*

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**

### **Leader**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve  
you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the  
world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Collect**

BCP 223

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Peace

**Celebrant**            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**                *And also with you.*

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

*The people sit.*

### **Announcements**

*The Priest says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

## Offertory

*The Hymnal 1982 # 380, vs 3*

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

**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.*

*Celebrant*

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #130*

The musical notation is for the hymn 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and'. It is written in a two-staff system with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the lyrics written below it. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and'.

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**                      And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

#### ***People and Celebrant***

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**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #154*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The Priest invites the people to Communion*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The people come forward to receive communion (extend your hands crossed to the priest) or a blessing (cross your arms across your chest), and return to their seat and kneel or sit as they are able*

## Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #304 vs 1,2&4 - I come with joy to meet my Lord

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

*Silence*

*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.

## **Blessing**

*The Bishop or Priest says*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## **Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #521 Put forth o God thy Spirit's might

## **Dismissal**

**Deacon** Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

## **Prayer List Calendar Announcements**

Prayer List

Please remember these in your prayers: Buzz and Barbara Dale, Dale, Carter, Bob, Charles, Josephine, Gailya, Ashley, Corbet, Anita, Betty, Angie, Marcel, David, Whitney, Connie, Joe and the Howell and Erwin families, the Blankenship family, Pat, Christie and family, Blake, Justin, Jerrid, Rob, Neal Tucker, Joyce, Marlin and all the Catos, Debra,

those traveling, those deployed, police, fire and first responders, victims of domestic abuse

## **Calendar / Announcements**

### **Calendar**

5/6 Easter 5

8:30 am Festive Easter Eucharist

9:30 am Sunday School and Fellowship

4:00 pm Eucharist

5:00 pm Adult Sunday School

5/9 6:00 Vestry (new time)

5/12 May Fest on Main St.

5/13 Easter 6

8:30 am Festive Easter Eucharist

9:30 am Sunday School and Fellowship

4:00 pm Eucharist

5:00 pm Adult Sunday School

### **Announcements**

Top Ten Ways to Welcome a Stranger

Take a look, take the survey, <http://episcopalarkansas.org/index.php/top-ten-landing-page/>

### **Fr. Scott contact**

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### **St. Stephen's information sites**

[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)

[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](http://www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville)

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