



St. Lawrence

Episcopal Church

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CONTEMPLATIVE HOLY EUCHARIST
April 28, 2024 at 9 AM

Today will be a contemplative service format that holds space for reflection and prayer through the use of instrumental music. We plan to use this format roughly once a month and welcome your feedback as we continue to practice new ways of worshipping together.

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Presider 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.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Reader 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 (*spoken together*)

**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.**

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Reader 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

All children are invited to join the Gospel procession! Take an instrument from the basket and with joy & enthusiasm herald the proclamation of the Gospel!

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospeler 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Musical Meditation

Nicene Creed

All **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,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**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,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who 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

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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.
Lord, in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us all 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.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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.

Lord, in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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.

Lord, in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, 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.

All **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding collect

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

All **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 our Savior 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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Offertory Music

THE HOLY COMMUNION Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Sanctus *(spoken together)*

All **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.**

Presider Holy and gracious God: 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 maker and of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again**

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

All **Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

All **Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia**

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

Ushers will guide you to the front of the congregation, where you will have the option to receive regular or gluten-free bread. Chalice bearers will be stationed on either side of the bread station. If you wish to receive from the common cup, please do so by drinking directly from the chalice. Communion by intinction (dipping bread in the cup of wine) is not permitted at this time. If you prefer not to drink from the common cup, please know that receiving Communion in one kind (bread only) is a perfectly valid choice and is considered full participation in the Sacrament.

Communion Music

Eat this bread

The image shows a musical score for two systems of music. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry." and "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: John 6; adapt. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942, and the Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Spiritual Communion for those on Zoom

Zoom Host Since we cannot share in the Body and Blood of Christ at this time, you are invited to join in the following prayer. The very intention to receive is enough to receive the spiritual blessing of the sacrament.

Let us pray.

All ***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 you 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. And particularly for the blessings given me....***

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 or from my sisters and brothers in Christ; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The sending forth of Eucharistic Visitors

When Eucharistic Visitors are sent out the following words are used.

All ***In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body. We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.***

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All **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

Dismissal and Closing Music

Community Prayers

The Universal Church, its members and its mission; The Church of Bangladesh; and for our Companion Dioceses of Southeast Mexico and Renk.

The concerns of the local community, especially those who are affected by gun violence

Those who suffer and are in any trouble and those who have requested our prayers: Kyra, the Smith family, Celeste, Jerry, Ruth, Mike, Rosanne, Robin, Duke, Hal, the Frank family, Connor, Jay, Rod, Bruce, Bill, George, Loretta Nanc, Linda, Cathy, Dale, Deb, Ethan, Eddie, Mary, Dorothy, Richard, Lan, Dale, DJ, Lisa, Tom, Nancy, Phyliss, Steve, Mell, Jane

We pray for those who are incarcerated, especially: Charles, Christian, Christino, Gregory, Gregory, Jermain, Karlondo, Maurice, Raymond, Rickie, Robert, Roy, Shane, Apolinar, Ernesto

We pray for those to be confirmed, especially: Zuzu, Matthew, Olivia, Abby, Sofia, Nessa, Emily, Eleanor, Arthur, Mary, Kai, Myha, Zoe, Emilia, Noah, Reece

We pray for those awaiting children, especially: Ashley

We pray for our beloved animal companions; Lexy

We pray for those who have died, especially: Alex

We pray for peace and healing in our nation and the world

We pray that peace and justice may come soon in places of war and conflict, and for all whose life of service puts them at risk; and for all victims of religious oppression throughout the world.

If you have a loved one you would like mentioned in the Prayers of the People list, please write their first name on the clipboard located at the rear of the church. You may also visit www.stlawrencechurch.org and click on "worship" and look for "Online Prayer Group". Names are checked and updated weekly and refreshed every month.

WELCOME!

New to St. Lawrence? Please complete the top part of the newcomers card found in the pews and either drop it in the collection plate or hand it to an usher.

"Soft Space" for Children

This space is for children young enough to enjoy a front row seat, up to age 10. The soft space gives kids a chance to experience our liturgy, worship, and communion without anything in their way.

Sunday School

Children ages 3-11 are welcome to join us every week after Sunday worship for snacks, crafts, Biblical storytelling, and a whole lot of fun!

Sunday school will start at approximately 10:00 AM in the Sunday School Room and end at 10:30 AM. All are welcome on a drop in basis, no sign ups necessary.

Contact Susie Brock office@stlawrencechurch.org with any questions.

Please join us for coffee hour in the narthex immediately following the service.

Meeting our neighbors' basic needs

Please join us **TODAY** in the Sanctuary following the service today to hear stories and updates from the HOPE Food Pantry. There have been many changes and much growth in this dynamic ministry over the years.



Getting Ready for Pentecost

Join us today for an all parish project and create an origami dove for a Pentecost mobile. Materials, directions and demonstrations will be available. We will also have project bags to go.

Bishop Clark Reception after Confirmation

On Saturday, May 4 at 11 AM we will welcome our bishop, Paula Clark to Trinity Highland Park to celebrate confirmations, receptions into the Episcopal Church and reaffirmations of baptism. We will also welcome other area Episcopalians for this diocesan event.

Please use the sign up link in your weekly email to RSVP and/or bring something for the reception.

St. Lawrence Plant Exchange



Sunday, May 5, 2024
10 AM - Noon
at
St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

It's time to divide those perennials and offer them a new home. If you have plants to share. If you're looking to build a garden or add something new. If you are just curious. This is for you. Gardeners and non-gardeners alike — all are welcome!

What: An opportunity to share some of those plants you love. An opportunity to add to your garden. An opportunity for community and creation care.

When: Plant drop off Saturday, May 4 or Sunday, May 5 (before 9 AM)

Plant pick up Sunday, May 5, 10 AM - Noon

Where: The rear courtyard at St. Lawrence Episcopal Church

How: To give away plants - place the plants in disposable pots or plastic bags. Re-used grocery bags are just fine. If you know what kind of plant it is, please label the container or tuck in a note. Bring the plants to St. Lawrence May 4 or May 5 (before 9 AM) and leave them in the courtyard to the west of the rear doors.

Wednesday Evenings Salad, Sweets and Study

COME FOR A SIMPLE SALAD SUPPER IN A COMFORTABLE SETTING AS KRISTIN LEADS A DIVE INTO THE STRUCTURE AND MEANING OF THE EUCHARIST

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29
6:30 – 8 PM

PLEASE FIND THE SIGNUP LINK
IN THE WEEKLY EMAIL OR CONTACT
OFFICE@STLAWRENCECHURCH.COM



St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church



Salad, Sweets, and Study

Join us for a 4-week deep dive into the structure and meaning of the Eucharist. Ever wondered why we do what we do on Sunday mornings? This is for you! Because all conversations are better with food, please see the sign up link in your weekly email or the sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring a salad or dessert, or if you are able to help with set up or clean up. All are welcome!

One Book, One Diocese Discusses "Poverty, by America"

Register for Zoom event on May 1

The second session on May 1, people from across the diocese will gather on Zoom to discuss *Poverty, by America*, by Matthew Desmond. The book is the second title in the four-year "One Book, One Diocese" initiative led by the Peace and Justice Committee.

On Wednesday, May 1 at 7 PM on Zoom, Mullen will join the Rev. Gary Cox, chair of the diocesan Hunger Committee, and members of the committee to discuss their work against hunger and poverty across the diocese. For registration, please check your weekly email or the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago website.

ST. LAWRENCE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN
BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND GIVE A SENSE OF
UNITY AND CONNECTION TO THE CONGREGATION

JUNE 16 AT 9 AM

**WORSHIP
SERVICE
AND STL PARISH PICNIC**



Old School Forest Preserve, Shelter C in Libertyville

**We need volunteers to make this day full of fun.
Contact the office to help, office@stlawrencechurch.org**

**We will have chicken from Emil's as the main course.
And for the fun; Bouncy House, Baggo, Connect 4 and Giant Jenga**

The Alphabet Food Strategy

Whatever your last name begins with bring the following

- A - J Side Dishes (*please bring serving utensils*)
- K - P Beverages
- Q - Z Desserts

On the STL calendar (*see the entire calendar on the STL website, stlawrencechurch.org*)

Sunday, April 28 - HOPE Food Pantry information meeting, Narthex, 10 AM; Origami Dove making project, Narthex, 10 AM

Thursday, May 2 - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7 PM

Saturday, May 4 - Seeking Sophia, Fireside Rm, 9 AM; BT Confirmation, Trinity Highland Park, 11 AM

Sunday, May 5 - Plant Exchange, Courtyard, 10 AM - Noon

Tuesday, May 7 - StoryPoint Eucharist, 901 Florsheim Rd, Libertyville, 2 PM

Wednesday, May 8 - Creative in the Nave, Sanctuary 6-8 PM; Salad, Sweets and Study, Fireside Rm, 6 PM

Saturday, May 11 - HOPE Food Pantry, Narthex, 8-10 AM



By the grace of God
and with the consent of the people of God,
The Right Reverend Paula Clark
Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago
will ordain

Cynthia Mary Rigali Lund

To the Sacred Order of Priests in
Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
Thursday, May 9, 2024
6:30 p.m. in the evening
Christ Church
784 Sheridan Road
Winnetka, Illinois

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Reception to follow ∞ The festival color is white.
Clergy are invited to vest and process.



St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

125 West Church Street
Libertyville, IL 60048
847 362-2110 • www.stlawrencechurch.org