

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Waretown, NJ  
Sunday Holy Eucharist – Rite Two  
Sunday, May 16, 2021  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

**The Word of God**

*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

**Collect**

*Celebrant*     **The LORD be with you.**  
*People*         And also with you.  
*Celebrant*     **Let us pray.**

**O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

**The Lesson**

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So, one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*Reader*         The Word of the Lord.  
*People*         **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 1

### *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the Wicked,\*  
Nor lingered in the ways of sinners,  
Nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,\*  
And they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
Bearing fruit in due season with leaves  
That do not wither;\*  
Everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so for the wicked;\*  
They are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright  
When judgment comes,\*  
Nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,\*  
But the way of the wicked is doomed.

## The Epistle

### 1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life

is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

*Celebrant*       **The Holy Gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ,  
according to John.**  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

### John 17:6-19

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf: I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me, I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and

the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

*Celebrant*     **The Gospel of the LORD.**  
*People*         Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### **The Sermon**

#### **The Nicene Creed** *(all stand)*

*Celebrant and People*  
**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.**

### **The Prayers of the People, Form VI**

In peace, we pray to you , Lord God.  
For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are  
alone.*  
For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*  
For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.*  
For all those who are in danger, sorrow or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the  
needy.*  
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*  
For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding  
Bishop, William our Bishop; and all bishops and other  
ministers.  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*  
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord

*For your mercy is great*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*And praise your name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord let your loving kindness be upon them;

*Who put their trust in you.*

**We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins:**

*Celebrant and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father: in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

**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.**

**The Peace** *(all stand)*

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

*People*        And also with you.

**Celebrant**            **Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.**

**Preparation of the Bread and Wine**

**The Great Thanksgiving -- Eucharistic Prayer C**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them 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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

**God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.**

*People: Glory to you for ever and ever.*

**At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.**

*People: By your will they were created and have their being.*

**From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.**

*People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.*

**Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.**

*People: By his blood, he reconciled us.  
By his wounds, we are healed.*

**And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in unending hymn:**

*Celebrant and People*

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. Then the Celebrant continues*

**The Celebrant continues:**

**And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”**

**Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,**

*People: We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.*

**Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Delivers us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.**

*People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

**Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.**

*People: Amen.*

**And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,**

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**

*Silence*

*Celebrant* [Alleluia.] **Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;**

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

**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 Bread is given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

### **The Prayer of Spiritual Communion St. Alphonsus Liguori**

(Prayed by those who would normally receive, but are either uncomfortable due to the pandemic or availed to stay at home when normally would be with us.)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive

you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As if you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you. Permit me never to be separated from you. 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.**

### **Blessing & Prayers**

#### **Announcements**

### **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant*

**Let us go forth in the name of Christ**

**[Alleluia Alleluia!]**

*People*

Thanks be to God, [Alleluia, Alleluia!]