

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Welcome Visitors: *We would like to extend a special welcome to you. We're glad you've chosen to worship with us today! If you would like to learn more about St. Laurence, we warmly invite you to please fill out one of the yellow welcome cards (located near the main entrance) so that we may contact you. Thank you!*

Prelude

Processional *TBA*

Deacon Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The Collect for Purity

Deacon and People

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria

Hymnal S-278

**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

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon Let us pray.

Deacon

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 Ministry of the Word

(Please be seated)

A Reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles – 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: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

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.

Epistle:

A Reading from John's First Letter

1 John 4:7-21

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.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Sequence Hymn TBA

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

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

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily *The Rev. Deacon Kit Snyder*

The Nicene Creed

(Zoomers please mute)

**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.

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

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, especially for our presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Kym and for our Deacon Kit and all who serve Christ in His Church;

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; especially for: ***The Servis Family, Sydney Gibb, Margie Sanchez, Martin Berry, Bill, Kathy Dewey, Family of Karen Delafose, Jackie Delafose, Issac Courtney, Victims of the earthquakes in Taiwan, Harry Jaffe, Alicia Myles, Jesse McKean & Family, Jess Berry, Jeff Dawson, Toni Gilboy, Bill Courtney, Sid, Nate, Jen & Gareth, Libby Healy, Dianne Saphiere, Leonard Marsh, Duane Mabry, Marianna, Polly Kendrick, Jasper Gibb and for all victims in war-torn countries, for all refugees and all who suffer from natural disasters.***

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; especially ***Ron & Judy Servis, Grace Neames Parker, Richard Jaffe, Marlyan Martinez, Jacque Scott McKean and for victims of war, persecution and natural disasters.***

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 or thanksgivings.

Deacon Concluding Collect

The Peace

Deacon The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offeratory

Deacon's Mass

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

While the plates are being passed the Acolyte will bring the consecrated Wine and Water and wash the Deacon's hands.

When the gifts are brought forward, the Deacon will bless the gifts first, saying:

Blessed be you, Lord God of All creation. Through your goodness we have these tithes and offerings which are symbols of our life and labor; may they be used in Your church for the work You have set before us and for furthering your kingdom on earth.

People: **Blessed by God forever.**

The Deacon then blesses the Sacraments saying:

Deacon: Blessed are You, Lord of all Creation.

Through Your goodness we have this Bread and this Wine which have been consecrated and have become for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

People: Blessed be God forever.

Deacon: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray"

Deacon and **People**

**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.**

Deacon

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer *Please remain Standing.*

Recessional Hymn TBA

Prayers for Travel or Health

Announcements

Postlude

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Announcements

Please join us for Coffee Hour fellowship following the Holy Eucharist Worship Service!

Enhanced Hearing Assist Available - We have Wireless Audio available for those needing hearing assistance. Please see Bill Horger before the service begins to get set up.

Godly Play is offered each Sunday morning. For questions, please contact Carole Hörger at cdhorger@gmail.com.

Please note – *Please respectfully enter the Nave in silence so that others may prepare their hearts and minds for worship.*

The chairs located in the back of the Nave, under the painting, are designated for those with mobility issues. Kindly keep those chairs and space open if possible. Thank you!

April Anniversaries & Birthdays – Happy Birthday to Mary Hastings (10th); Kaye Willcockson (10th); Bob Drake (14th); Christy Schaad (18th); April Coveney (22nd); Dan Ogdon (24th); Jesse McKean (26th) and Misty Keasler (28th)! **Happy Anniversary** to Gretchen & Ted Norman (15th) and Grant & Judi Parker (30th)!

Farewell to Rev. Shelley - If you would still like to submit a picture, memory or letter to her, please send it to Erika in the office as soon as possible.

Inner Wilderness Ministry – Centering Prayer: This coming **Tuesday, April 30**, we will be blessed with Deacon Kit as she leads us through Centering Prayer. We meet at the church from 10-11:30. Centering Prayer is a form of meditation based on ancient Christian Contemplative tradition. In Centering Prayer, our aim is to let go of our thoughts and make space for our idea of the divine to enter into our sacred indwelling in a deeper way. All are welcome, no RSVP needed. We hope to see you!

Worship Flowers – Altar Flowers can return! Please sign up on the Flower Chart in the hallway to honor an event or loved one.

Rummage Sale – Save the date! Our summer rummage sale will take place Friday, June 28th and Saturday, June 29th.

Food Ministry - St. Laurence has a newish Food Ministry! We are asking people to prepare freezer ready foods so that we can give it to a person/family in need. Here is the Sign-upGenius link to sign up for meals:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2EA46-47913682-food>

Feedback and suggestions for refining are most welcome. Thank you! Beth Lincoln

Supper Club Gathering – If you would like to participate, please sign up in the book on our resource table. For questions, contact Kathy Dewey at 571-246-6363.

Any Interest in Learning Mahjong? – Kathy Dewey is hoping to find some interest in a Mahjong Club. We could play Wednesday mornings opposite of The Knitting Club (specifically on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays). Kathy is willing to teach those who do not know how. Contact Kathy Dewey at 571-246-6363.

St. Francis Center Donations – The St. Francis Center in Denver is in desperate need of the following donations: Men's & women's jeans/pants, shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, pull-overs, underwear, jackets, coats, parkas, warm winter accessories: hats/gloves/scarves, belts, socks, large bottles of shampoo/conditioner, lotion, body & foot powder, Vaseline, cologne/aftershave/perfume and shoes. *Please place your donations in the 2 baskets in Donoghue Hall. Thank you!!*

Choir - Rehearsals are Sundays after church! If you would like to join Choir, please contact Jenny Lyons. Let's make a Joyful noise!

Book Club - Jesse McKean is leading a book club gathering on **Tuesdays from 6pm - 8pm** in Donoghue Hall during the colder months and at Flying J Ranch during the warmer months. They are reading a book entitled - *True Refuge* by Tara Brach. Please contact Jesse for additional details: wjmckean80433@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening Meditation – This ministry is held **every Wednesday** of the month at 7 pm and is in person. Jesse McKean is the facilitator. If you have any questions, please contact Jesse.

St. Laurence Knitting Group - Join Kate Washburn on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings** from 10 AM to 12 PM for knitting and fellowship. Bring your knitting or any other project you are working on. All are welcome!

Storms during Winter Months - During the winter months, since we know how unpredictable the amount of snow we get can be, if it is looking like a significant amount and that it could possibly impact Sunday morning Worship, please check your email Saturday evening/early Sunday morning for instructions regarding how worship will proceed.

Prayers of the People Prayer List – Names will be listed in Sunday’s worship liturgy for one month or for long term needed prayers, in the weekly Town Crier. If you would like to submit a name, please contact Lindy Grote, our Pastoral Care Team Leader at (720) 341-1456 or email at lgrote@wispertel.net. Please fill out a prayer request slip located on the resource table and give it to either Lindy or Deacon Kit. ***If you write in someone’s name on the prayer script, please put in parathesis who submitted the name so that we can follow up.***

Donating to St. Laurence Through the Zelle App - If you have Zelle through your Bank, we can now accept payments/donations through that app! ***The recipient is stlconifer@gmail.com.*** Please state in the description field what the payment is for (Pledge, Donation, Garden Plot, etc.) so we can process it properly. *We do not pay processing fees for Zelle transactions, so ALL of your contribution goes to the Church!*



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