



Liturgy Insert for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rite II – 9:00 am

April 28, 2024

**This insert changes weekly and is used with the Sunday Liturgy which is reused through the season of Easter.*

***The altar flowers today are given by Linda Lassen
in memory of her mother Alva Lou Broun.***

Opening Hymn

Blue Hymnal 657

Offertory Hymn

Blue Hymnal 711

Communion Hymn

Silence

Closing Hymn

Blue Hymnal 390

Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

***People:* 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. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Reader: We will read the psalm antiphonally by **half** verse.

- 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: A reading from the First letter of John.

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: The Word of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn

Blue Hymnal 193 vs 1,3,5

**That Easter day with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**O Jesus King of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise.**

**All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to thee, who, dead, again dost live;
to God the Father equal praise,
and God the Holy Ghost, we raise.**

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
according to John.

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

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."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Shawn Dickerson

After the sermon silence is kept.

Continue on page 3 of the Liturgy.

✦ Greetings to everyone who has been a part of St. Paul's Place

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you have done over the years for St. Paul's Place. You have been awaiting more news about our community dinners. We are excited to share this update and extend an invitation to you.

Things have been quiet---community meal wise---over the last several months. This last year it became very clear new patterns were emerging for folks who came to eat at St. Paul's Place. There are probably all kinds of reasons for the new patterns including long term effects of Covid, folks finding housing (great news!--but many folks with this new housing are further from Oregon City, making it hard for them to get to a Thursday evening meal) and the toll of fentanyl. Certainly there are other factors at play. We paused the community meal for several months while we talked with St. Paul's Place volunteers, thought about what happens when we share a meal with each other, and considered the need for a community meal.

We actually spent A LOT of time dreaming about a community meal even as we took a break serving the meal. In the end, we have decided to pivot: change direction while we keep one foot well planted. We still want to gather and share a meal--our planted foot. However, we want to pivot the mechanics and logistics of the meal somewhat and go in a new direction. Admittedly, this break in serving the meal has been longer than we anticipated, but very necessary for us to think about sharing a meal in a different way.

In scripture, we hear time and again how Jesus gathered with others at a meal. It seems a good portion of Jesus' ministry revolved around or involved sharing meals. The significance of sharing meals to his ministry cannot be overstated.

In this broken world, we believe the church can offer so much by continuing to share a meal. Fear, isolation, loneliness, and ignorance nip at the heels of every generation. A common meal together can overcome those forces. With God's grace, a shared meal provides fellowship, belonging, understanding, and growth. The Body of Christ needs its various members just as the world needs the witness of the church gathered together. We need this and the world needs this.

Come share a meal with us in a new way!! Initially, we will gather once a month on the first Wednesdays at 5:30 to share a meal all together. We are calling this new gathering ***Come to Dinner***. It is a meal for everyone. We hope you will join us and experience this new meal.

Come to Dinner

on Wednesday May 1st at 5:30
Pick up another parishioner, a friend,
or a neighbor on your way.

Events at St Paul's

- ✦ **Come to Dinner** Wednesday, May 1st at 5:30.
- ✦ **Clergy Conference** Monday, April 29-May 1
- ✦ **Spring Tea** Saturday, May 4th at 1:00 pm.
Tickets \$5.
- ✦ **Glass Bowl Workshop** Saturday, May 10th
at 10:00 am. Fee \$35
- ✦ **Book Club** meets Wednesday, May 15th
at 1:00 pm in the Kelly Room.
Book to be discussed:
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
Book for June:
Faith Bass Darlings Last Garage Sale by Lynda Rutledge
- ✦ **Kick-off to Summer** Saturday, June 8th
at 5:30 pm. Spaghetti Dinner featuring
The Saggy Bottom Band and Raffle for a seven night
week at the beach. Dinner Tickets \$25
Raffle Tickets \$25 or 5 for \$100

Sunday Ministry Schedule

Day	Grt	Ushers	AV	Acolyte	LEM	2 nd Read	Prayers
4/28	*	Kathy/John d	Patrick	Gary/Ian	Chuck	Marty	Linda
4/7	*	Barbara/Dan	Paul	Donald/John	Ted	Jenny	John
4/14	*	Marty/Tom M	Ted	Charlotte/Grady	Marsha	Robin	Robin
4/21	*	Jean/Patrick	Chuck	Gary/Ian	Linda	Marsha	Marsha
4/28	*	Kathy/John d	Patrick	Donald/John	Chuck	Michelle	Tom M

* Anne, Dee, & Rita will alternate as Greeters.