



# St. Francis

## Episcopal Church

*A Spirit of Warmth. A Sense of Belonging.*



# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Welcome to St. Francis! WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!! We are reopen for public worship in-person as long as our COVID-19 numbers stay below the safe threshold set by our Diocese, and you can check our website and weekly emails for confirmation of our in-person status weekly. As always, every Sunday we will livestream the entire worship service on our Facebook page “Saint Francis Episcopal Church” and on our website [www.saintf.org](http://www.saintf.org). We are grateful for your presence with us, and invite you to join us every Sunday, however is most comfortable for you. If this is your first time with us, we hope you will feel comfortable following along in this bulletin. If you have any questions about our worship or the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Mark at 308-632-4626 or [frmarks@me.com](mailto:frmarks@me.com).

Our Worship Team

Priests	Mark Selvey, Karen Anderson, and Robert Manasek
Altar Guild	Nancy Kepler, Diane Eskam, Monica and Kathy Shambaugh
Choir Dir.	Alyssa Harvey
Admin. Asst	Regina Swanson

Our Vestry

Fr. Mark Selvey	Cory Foster	Jon Meyer
Charlie Kennedy	Scott Harvey	Mary Kay Versen
Colleen Kelly	John L. Selzer	Monica Shambaugh
Jack Webb	Kristi Weiss	Jane Wisniewski

Birthdays

John Simmons	May 2
Josie Meyer	May 4
Fernando Moreno	May 6
William Croft	May 8

Anniversaries

Rick & Vicky Gable	May 5
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Flowers

**Al & Barb Williams and Ann Williams** – In memory of their parents, Alan and Dorothy Williams.

## ENTRANCE HYMN *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing (Truro)*

(H 182)

The musical score is written for a five-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with five staves and a piano accompaniment line with a bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*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.**

### **THE 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.*

### **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>26</sup>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*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30** (*responsively by half-verse*)

<sup>24</sup>My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

**I will perform my vows in the  
presence of those who worship him.**

<sup>25</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*

**“May your heart live for ever!”**

<sup>26</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
**and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

<sup>27</sup>For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*

**he rules over the nations.**

<sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*

**all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

<sup>29</sup>My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; \*

**they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.**

<sup>30</sup>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**

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*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN *Philip the Evangelist* (LEVAS 50)



1. The an - gel said to — Phil - ip: “Go to a des - ert place.”
2. The E - thi - ope re - spond - ed: “Lead me and be my guide.
3. They trav - eled in the — char - iot, And came up - on a brook;
4. Saint Phil - ip told the — E - thiope: “Be - lieve with all your heart;



1. And there he found an — E - thiope, the treas - urer — to — Can - dace,
2. Ex - plain the scrip - ture — to me; Here, sit down. at — my side.”
3. The E - thi - ope, ex - ci - ted then looked up — from his book.
4. And God the Ho - ly — Spir - it Will His own — gift — im - part.”



1. Who sat with - in his char - iot with Ho - ly Writ in hand.
2. Then Phil - ip ex - e - ge - ted I - sai - ah's Ho - ly word.
3. “See Phil - ip, here is wa - ter,” He said, and stopped his steed!
4. “I do be - lieve that Je - sus Is God's true, on - ly son.”



1. Asked Phil - ip: “Can you, — bro - ther, the Pro - phet un - der - stand?”
2. And preached un - to the — E - thiope that Je - sus Christ is Lord.
3. “What can now,” he im - plored him, “My bap - tism — im - pede?”
4. And with these words, the — treas - urer A great - er — trea - sure won.



5. O Philip, the evangelist  
 You brought to Afric's seed  
 The Gospel of our Savior  
 In thought, and word and deed,

O may we share Thy fervor  
 And press on towards the prize;  
 And heed our Lord's commission  
 To teach, preach and baptize.

**GOSPEL: John 15:1-8** *All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, <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.”

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON**

**Fr. Mark Selvey**

**THE NICENE CREED**

**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**

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 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 Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Scott our Bishop; and for all  
bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, praying  
especially for healing for *Walker, Curt, Mary Katherine, Marcia, Lucy,*  
*Susan, Brian, Chris, Deb, Pat, C.J..*

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.*

*The Celebrant adds a Concluding Collect*

## **THE PEACE**

*All stand.*

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

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

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
FOR BIRTHDAYS:**

**Watch over these thy children, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen***

**FOR ANNIVERSARIES:**

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The Celebrant says*

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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. Amen.**

*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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

**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.**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. +

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.” +

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN* +++

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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

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

*Celebrant* 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 ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.  
*Amen.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

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.**

## **THE BLESSING**

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

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

## DISMISSAL

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

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

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE BISHOP'S VISIT**

Plans are set for our Bishop's visitation Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Holy Eucharist with Confirmations and Receptions that evening at 6:00 P.M., followed by a short cake & coffee reception in the parish hall. At 7:30 we will return to the sanctuary for a conversation with the Bishop, who is very interested in how you all are doing and how you have fared during this most difficult and unusual of church years. Come out and celebrate with your Bishop, and spend time in communion and conversation with he and Canon Liz.

### **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

This is a National Group of Episcopal Women who commit to pray and work regularly for the mission and ministries of their local parish and the wider church. I have personally seen the fruits of having a DOK Chapter – both for the parish and for the women involved – and so am very happy to announce a diocesan discernment/training to be offered via Zoom by Omaha members Sandra Squires and Carol Ott. Our own Beth McKibbin Beth leads our small but growing DOK group and will be your local contact. Here is the information about the meetings:

“Discernment classes will meet 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Monday mornings starting April 5. Sandra will start promptly at 10 a.m. If someone needs assistance with joining Zoom, Sandra or Carol Ott will practice with them before April 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting dates are: April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 17, 24, June 7, 21 (*Note that there will not be sessions on April 12 and May 10, and May 31 which is Memorial Day.*)”

For more information you can email Beth at [bethmckibbin@yahoo.com](mailto:bethmckibbin@yahoo.com)