

Welcome to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Please silence your cell phones if you haven't already

8:00 AM / 10:00 AM

Prelude		<i>Sandy Moore</i>
Opening Hymn	<i>Jesus is Lord of all the Earth</i>	<i>H-178</i>
The Liturgy of the Word		<i>See Slides</i>
Gloria		<i>S-280</i>
Collect of the Day		<i>See Bulletin</i>
The Lessons	<i>Acts (8:26-40)</i>	<i>See Bulletin</i>
	<i>Psalm 22:24-30</i>	<i>See Bulletin</i>
	<i>1 John (4:7-21)</i>	<i>See Bulletin</i>
Gospel Hymn	<i>Here in Christ We Gather</i>	<i>H-577</i>
The Gospel	<i>John (15:1-8)</i>	<i>See Bulletin</i>

Homily **The Rev. Steve Hood**

Nicene Creed *See Slides*
Prayers of the People *See Slides*
The Peace

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings, Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory	<i>Instrumental (8:00 AM)</i>	<i>Sandy Moore</i>
	<i>Because He Lives (10:00 AM)</i>	<i>St. Matt's Choir</i>

Presentation Hymn	<i>Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing (vs. 1,4)</i>	H-205
The Great Thanksgiving: Rite I, Prayer 2	<i>(8:00 AM only)</i>	BCP 340
The Great Thanksgiving: Rite II, (EOW)	<i>(10:00 AM only)</i>	See Slides
Sanctus		S-125
Lord's Prayer		BCP 336 / BCP 364
Breaking of the Bread	<i>This is the Body of Christ</i>	See Slides
Communion Hymn	<i>Instrumental</i>	Sandy Moore
	<i>Thou, Who at Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray (10:00 AM)</i>	H-315
	<i>Ubi Caritas (10:00 AM Only)</i>	See Slides
Post Communion Prayer		BCP 339 / BCP 365
Blessing		See Slides
Closing Hymn	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	H-657
The Dismissal		
Postlude		Sandy Moore

The Collect (8:00 AM)

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Collect (10:00 AM)

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 Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40)

Then 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.

Psalm 22:24-30

Prayed by leader and congregation in unison

- 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.

The First Letter of 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.

The Gospel According to John (15:1-8)

Jesus said "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.

Announcements

Adult Formation & Worship:

Clergy Coffee Hour - Prayer: A Personal Sharing. *“Lord, teach us to pray”* (Luke 11:1). Over the years we who have been ordained have been asked a similar question in a more indirect way, but with an added assumption: *“How do you pray? As clergy it must come easier to you, right? A part of the job description.”* Join members of St. Matt's clergy as we take turns sharing the joys, struggles, challenges, and insights of our personal prayer journeys at Clergy Coffee Hour. **Fr. Emil will begin this series at 9:00 on Sunday, April 28th.** Grab a cup of coffee and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Confirmation Classes - Regional Confirmation is scheduled for August 3, 2024. If you are interested in adult Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, or Reception into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Steve. **Classes begin on June 2nd.**

June 2 - Introduction: History

June 16 - How we approach God: Scripture, Tradition, and Reason

June 30 - Life in Community: Sacraments and Liturgy

July 14 - Christian Formation: Prayer, Study, and Service

July 28 - Organization, Orders of Ministry, and the Bishop's visit.

Fellowship

Cinco de Mayo - Sunday, May 5th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. St. Matthew's will be celebrating with enchiladas, tamales, rice, beans, desserts, beverages and some of Dave Emerson's marvelous margaritas. Please join us and share a lovely meal and community time while making money for our youth group. All are welcome! Ticket prices: Adults \$8.00, Ages 6-19 \$5.00, 5 & under FREE. Margaritas available to adults age 21 and older by donation.

WWJD - May 6th at 6:00 PM - All women and their friends are welcome to come to socialize with other women in the parish. A small cooking team will prepare a simple meal for all to enjoy. More than the food, it's about making new friends and enjoying a night out with no cooking. The \$10 entry fee defrays food costs, and the remainder is donated to local agencies serving women. RSVP directly to Sue Van Voorhees at sukeyvanv@gmail.com.

Outreach

The Outreach Team will be conducting a drive throughout the month of May for the Laurel House, which is a trauma-informed supportive housing apartment for youth ages 18 - 24 who have experienced homelessness. Each of the 34 apartments is furnished and has a small kitchen and single bathroom. The residents need help stocking their apartments with household items. **You will find requested items on the insert provided.** New or used (in good condition and working order) items will be accepted, so if during your spring cleaning, you run across things you no longer need and would like to donate, please place them in the bins in the gathering space. If you need help transporting donations to the church, call Gretchen Davis at 970-773-3017 for pick up. Thank you!

Piecemakers meet next on May 11th from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the church. Everyone is welcome to join in! For questions, contact Kathy Morgan at kathleen.morgan@yahoo.com

Children's Ministry

Coming this fall: Youth Group Yard Sale! See Becky for details.

Time to register for VBS! June 24-28. Register on our website under the Connect tab. **We are looking for volunteers to lead, feed, and share the love** of God with our VBS kids. Please see Becky if you are interested in helping kids discover that they're made by God and built for a purpose. **Items needed for VBS:** Large empty metal food cans (gallon or bigger), Extra house paint- brown, blue, yellow, green, purple, old box fan.

Church News

Altar Flowers - If you would like to donate altar flowers in honor of someone or a special occasion, please call the church office at (970) 242-3293 or email stmatthsgj@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet at the back of the gathering space. The cost is \$55.

Ministries

Prayer Chain Support is Available - If you find yourself struggling, facing difficult challenges, or know of someone in need, St. Matt's prayer chain members want to help. Contact Margaret Palo at margpalo31@gmail.com or (970) 243-2467, Merrilyn Simpkins at merrilyn41@gmail.com or (970) 464-5446, Deb McLaughlin at bildeb@bresnan.net or (970) 243-7265.

Giving

Electronic Offering: Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Matthew's website at stmatthewsgj.org and choosing "Giving" on the toolbar menu. Gifts to St. Matthew's can also be made by scanning the Tithe.ly QR Code. **Thank you for your generous support of our collective work!**



Giving

Communion at St. Matthew's

In order to come into closer compliance with diocesan guidelines around the distribution of Holy Communion, St. Matthew's will no longer be distributing communion wine in individual cups during common worship. The small cups will be replaced with a chalice used only for intinction of the bread into the wine. Drinking from the common cup will continue to be the primary method for receiving communion. Here are the new guidelines for receiving communion:

The communion bread will be distributed just as always. If you want to drink from the common chalice, consume the bread and accept the chalice when it comes to you.

If you plan to dip the bread into the wine (intinction), hold it in your hand and a second chalice specifically prepared for intinction will be offered. Carefully dip the bread into the chalice and consume immediately. Be careful not to touch the edges of the chalice with your hands or dip your fingers into the wine. Parents with small children should do the intinction for the child. If you need communion to be brought to you, please tell an usher.

Additionally, the clergy have been tasting breads for communion and I have decided to use a gluten free bread for all communicants. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via text or email. I hope this will be the last change to our communion practice for the near future, although we may change breads or use wafers from time to time depending on the availability of the bread.

Also, special thanks to the altar guild and the altar servers. Their flexibility and patience throughout our many changes has been a great model for the rest of us.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Lucas, Bishop
The Reverend Stephen D. Hood, Rector
The Reverend Janice Head, Priest Associate
The Reverend Rich Paul, Deacon
The Reverend Teri Shecter, Deacon
The Reverend Jamie Galbasini, Deacon
The Reverend Emil Belsky, Assisting Priest