

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 10:30 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Welcome to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church.

The Liturgy begins on Page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

PRELUDE *Wir glauben all an einen Gott, BWV 680* Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation* Hymnal 390

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

ACCLAMATION BCP 355

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: 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.

***People:* Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS Hymnal S-280
(the "S" numbers are found in the front portion of the Hymnal)

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.

***People:* Amen.**

At this time, the children are invited to gather at the front of the Nave to process to Children's Church.

THE LESSON *please be seated*

Acts 8:26-40

Reader: A reading from 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.**

THE 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.

THE EPISTLE

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

Thou art the Way, to thee alone

Hymnal 457

THE GOSPEL

John 15: 1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Bob Flick

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III

BCP 387

*Please kneel. The People speak the words in **bold type**.*

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;
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;
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;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

We pray for Doctors, Nurses, and those who care for the sick: Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the

prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries, the health of the community may be promoted, and your creation glorified.

Amen.

We pray for those who are ill: Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care all those who suffer from any illness or disease. Relieve their pain, guard them against all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you.

Amen.

Further, we pray for our armed forces, police, firefighters, and EMTs. Defend and strengthen them, give them courage and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.

Amen.

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of Holy Spirit, and grant us guidance as we seek a new Rector for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Empower each member of our Search Committee to use their gifts for ministry to the fullest; to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect the opinions of others; and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to joyfully bring Christ's love to the world around us and nurture each other in our Christian walk. Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through this journey.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have

mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

BCP 360

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

People: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

“O Rest in the Lord”

Felix Mendelssohn

Joshua Chavira, countertenor

THE DOXOLOGY *please stand*

(verse 3)

Hymnal 380

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

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.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(the "S" numbers are found in the front portion of the Hymnal)

Please stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

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

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All people are welcome to receive a blessing by coming forward and simply crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN *I come with joy to meet my Lord* Hymnal 304

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *please kneel* BCP 365

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 people respond:* Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Sing praise to God who reigns above* Hymnal 408

DISMISSAL *the people respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Marche épiscopale* Louis Vierne, transcribed by Maurice Duruflé



THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for my health, family and friends. By Jean Schulman

In celebration of Rob and Haley's first wedding Anniversary by Melinda and Jim Van Paasschen

PLANT A SEED - ALTAR FLOWER CAMPAIGN

Help us plant seeds in April so that fresh flowers can bloom on our altar all year long! During the month of April, sign up to dedicate flowers on Sundays from May 2024 through April 2025.

You select the Sundays, make your dedications, and pay for the flowers. Sign up for as many Sundays as you would like. The goal is to have fresh flowers on the altar every Sunday! We need 45 dedications to achieve this goal. Flowers cost \$175 per Sunday.

Scan the QR code to sign up online or contact our offices directly with your dedication. Contributions may be submitted online; or, cash/check may be dropped off in the office.



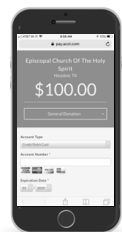
VISITING TODAY?

Holy Spirit is a warm, welcoming church full of people who love to learn and have fun together. We'd love to get connected with you! Visit our website holyspirthouston.org or scan the QR code.



TEXT TO GIVE

Text to 73256 with the phrase "holyspirthouston" - you will be guided at the next screen. *Standard text messaging rates may apply.*



HOLY SPIRIT @ A GLANCE

April

Sunday, April 28

- 7:00 am Lord of the Streets (LOTS) Volunteer Service
(Trinity Episcopal Church)
- 8:00 am Worship *(Nave)*
- 9:15 am Adult Christian Formation *(Palmer Parish Hall)*
- 10:30 am Worship & HS Graduation Sunday *(Nave)*,
Reception to follow *(Parlor)*
- 5:00 pm Worship *(Palmer Parish Hall)*

Tuesday, April 30 Staff Planning Workshop

May

Wednesday, May 1

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry *(Parlor)*

Friday, May 3 Grande Texas Family Reunion with Bishop Doyle
(Camp Allen)

Sunday, May 5

- 8:00 am, 10:30 am Worship *(Nave)*
- 10:30 am Daughters of the King (DOK) Commissioning
- 9:15 am Adult Christian Formation *(Parlor)*
- 5:00 pm Worship *(Palmer Parish Hall)*

Tuesday, May 7

- 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, May 8

- 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer Group

Saturday, May 11

- 11:00 am Mother's Day Weekend Brunch
(Palmer Parish Hall)

Sunday, May 12 Mother's Day

- 8:00 am, 10:30 am Worship *(Nave)*
- 9:15 am Adult Christian Formation *(Palmer Parish Hall)*
- 5:00 pm Worship *(Palmer Parish Hall)*

Wednesday, May 15

- 11:30 am Lord of the Streets (LOTS) Luncheon
(The Junior League of Houston)

Thursday, May 16

- 6:00 pm Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack (BCB)
Community Assembly *(Palmer Parish Hall)*



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