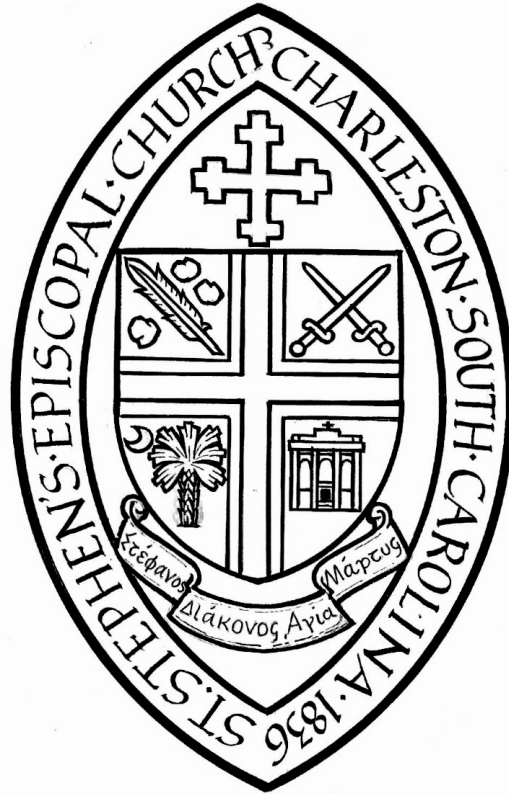


St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
In the City of Charleston, South Carolina



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Choral Eucharist

11:00 a.m.

April 29, 2018

We welcome you to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a house of prayer for all people.

We ask that you put your cell phones, pagers and other devices in silent mode.

*Please observe a respectful silence during the playing of the prelude
for those who use this time for prayer and quiet meditation.*

Hymn 448

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
- 2 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.
- 3 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.
- 4 For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us gave up his dying breath.
- 5 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 6 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore
for ever and for evermore.

The Word of God

All standing, the Celebrant says

	Alleluia. Christ is risen.
<i>People</i>	The Lord is risen indeed. Allalulia.

The Celebrant says

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.*

The following is sung, all standing

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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.*

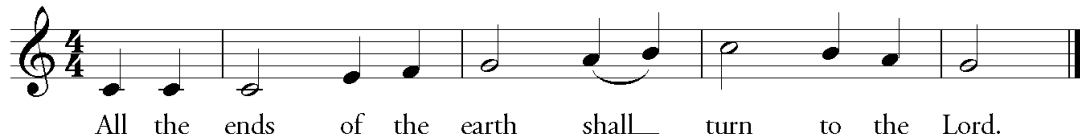
The First Lesson

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 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.

Antiphon:



Psalm Tone:



Antiphon

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] forever!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and [turn to] the lord,* and all the families of the nations [bow] before him.

27 For kingship be-[longs to] the Lord;*
he rules [over] the nations.

Antiphon

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 des-[cendants] shall serve him;*
they shall be known as the [Lord's] forever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people [yet] unborn* the saving deeds that [he] has done.

Antiphon

The Epistle

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 The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 379

- 1 God is Love, let heaven adore him;
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heaven above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is Love, eternal Love.

- 2 God is Love; and Love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace:
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is Love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Adam J. Shoemaker

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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 IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

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. *Amen.*

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.

Welcome and Announcements

The Celebrant continues


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."


Celebrant and People

Celebrant



There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Celebrant continues

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.

Celebrant *People*



A - men.

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

...Come to this table you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who come to this sacrament often, and you who have not come for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invited us to meet him here... (Invitation, Iona Abbey, Scotland)

Communion

Sean Holleran, tenor

Hymn 487

- 1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

- 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

- 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

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.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people.

Hymn 529

- 1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

- 2 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.

3 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

Dismissal

The Priest dismisses the People.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

Postlude: Trumpet Tune

David N. Johnson

The worship is over. Now the service begins.

*The Flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God by
Derek Eager and Amy Limehouse Eager in Honor of their Daughter,
Brooking Limehouse Eager's 14th Birthday on Tuesday, April 24th.*

SERVING TODAY:

The Reverend Dr. Roy Hills (Celebrant)
The Reverend Adam J. Shoemaker (Preacher)
Wayne Helmly (Choirmaster & Organist)
Ted Washington (Lector)
John Shannon (Eucharistic Minister)
Joey Froneberger (Intercessor)
Sam Austin (Crucifer)
Team #1, Captain: William Ravenel (Usher Team)

Tea Time

Join us for Tea Time immediately following the service.

Today's light refreshments are provided by Sandie Simon.

*For more information about Tea Time,
contact Vicki Ravenel at vicki@ravenel.us.*

Riverdogs Baseball

Mayor Tecklenburg and the Clergy Advisory Council invites you to attend the Riverdogs game on **June 3** at 5pm for an 'All Faiths Night'.

There will be a pre-game ceremony on the field. Kids 12 and younger get a free food voucher for a hot dog, chips, and a drink as well as an opportunity to run the bases after the game. Tickets are \$7 each.

If you would like to attend, please make your check out to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church with "Riverdogs" in the memo section by **TODAY** at the latest.

Social Justice Bible Study

We are currently offering a devotional and self-reflective Bible Study that makes use of "The Social Justice Bible Challenge" put out by Forward Movement Publications. These study groups meet at different times during the week to fit the needs of each group. **The Tuesday evening group will begin meeting every Tuesday at 7pm, rather than every other Tuesday.** For any questions regarding this change, please contact Betty Gore at bebe8ap@gmail.com.

All are welcome and encouraged to invite others!

May Save the Dates

Sunday, May 6 at 11am

Join us at our 11am worship service to hear the Prep Choir of the Savannah Children's Choir perform 4 pieces.

Sunday, May 13 at 11am

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Laura Everett, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Sunday, May 13 at 5pm

Join us for our Organ Dedication and Recital. Dr. William Gudger, retired professor of organ at The College of Charleston will perform. A reception will follow in Stephen's Hall.

Sunday, May 20 at 11am-Pentecost

Bishop Adams will be with us as Celebrant and Preacher as well as to administer the sacrament of Baptism and the sacramental rite of Confirmation.

Parking Reminder

Free parking is available in The Gaillard Center Parking Garage (a short walk from the church at 33 Alexander Street). Simply hold onto your worship bulletin from St. Stephen's and present it to the parking attendant on your way out of the garage.

One-hour parking is available for non-residents throughout the area. Please note that street parking for more than one hour is restricted to residents with a city residential parking permit. The municipal parking enforcement staff works with city churches as much as possible, acknowledging their position as members of the community.