



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
May 2, 2021

Welcome

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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. **Amen.**

Gloria

When appointed, the following hymn is said, all standing as able

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.**

THE LESSONS

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A Reading from the book of 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

from *The Saint Helena Psalter*

²⁴ My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

²⁵ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall praise you: ***
“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

²⁷ **For yours is the royal power, O God; ***
you rule over the nations.

²⁸ To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.

²⁹ **My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; ***
they shall be known as yours for ever.

³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that you have done.

Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God.
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for evermore. Amen.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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.**

The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

Please stand as you are able.

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 Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta (Rhetta) Wiley

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Please stand as you are able.

**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

Celebrant As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, seeking to abide in the Spirit of love, we bring our prayers to God: Eternal Loving One, accept the wishes of our hearts as we pray faithfully, saying: *For God is love; and perfect love casts out all fear.*

Intercessor Gracious One, you have called us to abide in your life and to bear witness to Christ the lamb: grant that the Church may reveal your love through Jesus, that we might live in him and so bear much fruit.

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Intercessor Light of the Word, dominion belongs to you, for you rule over nations: Raise up bold witnesses like Philip who will testify to the rich and powerful about God's good news which is perfected in love, so that peace may abound in our time.

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Intercessor Attentive Vinegrower, you tend the braches and fruit of your vine extending to the ends of the earth: Let your loving attention reach out to all people who live in suffering and threatening conditions, that they may be restored to life and fruitfulness.

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Intercessor Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God: Inspire all in our community to seek to expand the fruits of compassion and care so that the poor shall eat and be satisfied and that all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Intercessor In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, and in our diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Mary's, Woodlawn; St. Paul's, Mt. Airy; and St. Peter's, Ellicott City.

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Intercessor You have first loved us and called us to love our neighbors as ourselves; Hear our prayers for all whom we intercede, especially Michael, Joe, Janet, Lorraine, Ruth, Rich, Delilah, Lisa, Betsy, Mark, Andrew M., Andrew T, Robb and Michelle.

Accept our grateful thanks for your abundance in our lives, especially for—Sally and Holly.

Gather in your banquet all who have died; especially Sarah and Robert. May their hearts live forever!

For God is love;
and perfect love casts out all fear.

Celebrant You have planted us in the nurturing ground of your steadfast love, O God, and grafted us into the life of your resurrected Son, Jesus our Savior: Keep us evermore abiding within your Spirit of love, that we may bear the fruit of your reconciliation for all that is and is to come, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements & Blessings

Birthdays: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant/s as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anniversaries: O God, who has given us the sacrament of marriage that we may know you through the intimacy of married love; 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 kindness, 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**

Travelers: O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel especially these your children; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Offertory Hymn

The Great Thanksgiving

Remain standing as you are able.

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 God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

Our Father,

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

As the bread is distributed

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

Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.

Prayer for Mission

Dear God, guide us at Trinity Episcopal Church to be an inclusive and caring Christ-centered community nurtured by our worship and tradition. We ask you to strengthen and guide us as we live out our mission to welcome and celebrate the diversity of all people through spiritual education, growth in faith, and service in Christ's name. Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Time to Call a Rector

In the spring of 2018, the Vestry made the decision to delay calling a Rector and to move forward with calling a Priest-in-Charge to serve as clergy at Trinity Church. Working with Bishop Sutton and his office the Vestry called Rev. Dr. Henrietta Wiley, and she accepted, to be the Priest-in-Charge for Trinity Church. I want to remind everyone that a Priest-in-Charge serves for two years. This allows for both the congregation and priest to work together in ministry to see if there is a “good fit” before making the more permanent commitment of call a rector.

In September of 2020, the first formal step in evaluating the “fit” was completed when Vestry and Rhetta conducted a Mutual Ministry review to discuss and collectively provide feedback on the first year of this relationship.

It is now time for the Vestry to decide on how to proceed with calling a Rector. On May 20, 2021, the Vestry will be meeting with The Rev. Canon Stuart Wright, Canon for Transitions for the Diocese of Maryland, to conduct another review. Following this process, the Vestry will decide on how to proceed with calling of the next Rector of Trinity Church. If you wish to provide input in this process, I ask that you reach out to any Vestry member to share your thoughts and experience over the last two years.

In Peace,
Rich Dougan
Senior Warden

| Discernment | Next Steps |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The priest discerns a call to be Rector, AND the vestry discerns a call and elects the priest as Rector. | Office of the Bishop is informed. A new letter of agreement is signed. We schedule a celebration! |
| The priest discerns a call to be Rector, BUT the vestry does not discern a call. | Office of the Bishop is informed. The priest moves to interim status or leaves the position. We begin a new search. |
| The priest does not discern a call to be Rector, BUT the vestry discerns a call and elects the priest as Rector. | Office of the Bishop is informed. The priest moves to interim status or leaves the position. We begin a new search. |
| The priest does not discern a call to be Rector, AND the vestry does not discern a call. | Office of the Bishop is informed. The priest moves to interim status or leaves the position. We begin a new search. |

TRINITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Groups for Easter Season, *Hybrid Church: A Way Forward?*

Trinity's Small Groups meet on Zoom.

Week 4 (May 2, 4, & 6) Sunday Service Schedule: Liturgy on Demand

Week 5 (May 9, 11 & 13) Pastoral Care: Beyond Sunday Morning

Week 6 (May 16, 18, & 20) Children's Formation; Youth Ministry; Potential Pushback

"Stock the Shelves" for the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET)

How to contribute: Purchase and deliver materials to church during Sunday services from April 11th until May 16th. Monetary donations are also welcome and can be mailed to the church with a MCVET memo. Men and womens t-shirts, shorts and shower shoes are needed.

Want to lend a helping hand in the creation of Trinity's Outdoor Classroom? Stop by the playground area Saturday, May 15 and/or 22 between 10am and 2pm to channel your inner child!

Hey Class of 2021, Call Us! Trinity would like to recognize new graduates and send them off on their new endeavors with a blessing. Please contact Kathleen Capcara to make these arrangements.

Rogation Days are upon us, and Mother Rhetta would like to come bless your gardens. Our Trinity Garden Gnome will be making visits May 10-12. Contact the office to schedule yours!

Save the Date for the Trinity Spring Fest, Sunday June 6! We will be having a picnic style celebration and blessing of the Outdoor Classroom and other community driven festivities.

Brown Bag Bible Study, Thursdays from 12-1pm on Zoom. Grab a sandwich and your Bible to join in a discussion of weekly lectionary readings. The meeting information is available on our website or by contacting the office.

Wednesday Night Live Evening Prayer with Sykes & Wiley. Find the dynamic duo live at 6pm on YouTube @ Trinity Church Towson.

PRAYERS

Intercessory prayer “is a profound, loving, and costly holding up of others who are on our hearts before God. True intercession is being with God, with the people on our hearts.” -Br. Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE

Please help us keep our list up to date by contacting the office when you or someone you know is in need of prayer, and by also letting us know when special prayers are no longer needed.

We pray for those with immediate needs: Michael Shaw, Lorraine Robertson, Rich Dougan, Delilah Dougan, Lisa Pawluk, Betsy Price, Mark Torres, Andrew Mamawi, Andrew Teubl, Michelle Tower, Janet Palmer, and Joe Greenbeck.

We pray for those with long-term needs: Phoebe Bacon, Pat Blake, June Burgess, Ilene Clarkson, Betty Denison, Marina Gavrelis, Jack Gillett (grandson), Dottie Hagan, Betsy Hughes, Eric Ingle, Maricka Oglesby, Dick & Gini Patterson, Jessica, Chris Price, Francis Schultz, Dixie Shelhoss, Ruth Stahl, Nancy Sword, Jim Weatherly, Fred Webber, Pat Wolf, Ken & Ann Eder, Ebbie Wheeler, Rob Stahl, Wendy Stahl, Nancy Hinson, Larry Davis and Jim Thierer.

For the repose of the soul of Sarah Fitzgerald and Robert Delisle.

We offer special prayers for: Our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico.

We pray for our students attending college/university:

Stephanie Anderson, Alexis Arthur, Mason Ayotte, Michael Behnke, Vicah Blair, Natalie Bolander, Nicci Bonner, Vincent Boone-Banko, Charlie Bouloukos, Zenden Cole, Zac Eldridge, Amy Emminizer, Anna Fuhrman, Bridget Flynn, Maddie Grable, Alexandra Harrington, Faith Hall, Drew Hauber, Heather Hinson, Andrew Jenkins, Tommy King, Allie Lawrence, Thomas Lewis, Naima MacDonald, Mason Miller-Breetz, Walker Miller-Breetz, Meron Miller, Taylor Moyer, Rehema Mwaisela, Sophie Mwaisela, Sarah Oliver, Hannah Preston, Danielle Rolle, Emma Riggs, Darah Schillinger, Madeline Stewart, Annie Swindell, Brittany Wellington, Kate Wittler, Kiely Woodward and Tori Wright.

We pray for those serving in our military: Jordan Clark and Toni Myatt.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Nancy Gabell, Jeffrey Pope, Cindy Lemieux, Alex Thierer and Pat Wolf.

The Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, Towson

Richard Dougan, *Senior Warden*

Greg Gabell, *Junior Warden*

Greg Ayotte, *Treasurer*

Joel Moore, *Registrar*

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jean Close (2022) | Catherine Evans (2023) | Joanne Chapline (2024) |
| Aimee Grable (2022) | Heather Ayotte (2023) | Allan Grimm (2024) |
| Lisa Pawluk (2022) | Joel Moore (2023) | Peggy King (2024) |
| Mac Price (2022) | John Oporia (2023) | Joanie Smith-Miller (2024) |

Trinity Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Henrietta L. Wiley, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Associate Priest

Kathleen Capcara, Lay Associate for Parish Life

Jill Dumser, Administrator

Jennifer Korczakowski, Business Manager

Luis Tejada, Sexton

Hardwick Spencer, Organist and Choir Director

Tressa Andrew, Interim Director of Trinity Episcopal Preschool

Erin K. Woodward, Director of Surprise Shop Volunteers

Office Phone: (410) 823-3588

Website: www.trinitychurchtowson.org

For pastoral emergencies please call

Mother Rhetta at 443-470-5539

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Tuesday's 2-4pm (\$30) or Thursday's 1-4pm (\$40)
 All experience levels welcome.



Open Meeting
 Sunday's 8-9pm
 Trinity Memorial Hall

All are welcome!
www.AA.org

Trinity Columbarium Niches Available

Contact the office for an information packet.

Email office@trinitychurchtowson.org to request space on our community page.