

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis Episcopal Church is a diverse community accepting all.

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship.

We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

Everyone is Welcome Here!



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 10:00 am

St. Francis Episcopal Church
400 New Market Rd. Dunellen, NJ 08812
Ph: 732-968-6761

The Rev. Ayden J. Petrone
Priest-in-Charge

The Word of God

PRELUDE

Take my Life and Let it be

by Henry A. Cesar Milan

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Hymnal (1982) #492

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

S 280 (Powell)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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 scat - cd 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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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.

⁴⁰But 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

Please join in reading the Psalm responsively by half verse.

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

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

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

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

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.

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

²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.

³⁰They 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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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 *Descend, O Spirit, purging flame*

Hymnal (1982) #297

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, ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My 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

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

All remain standing.

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, sickness, or trouble, especially any we now name; *(pause)*

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.

We celebrate those having birthdays this week, especially any we now name: *(pause)*

We also celebrate those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially any we now name: *(pause)*

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

(Silence)

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

OFFERTORY HYMN

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord;
People **And of Thine own we have given Thee.**

DOXOLOGY

Blue Hymnal (1982) 380 v3)

The Great Thanksgiving

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

SANCTUS

S 128 Holy, holy, holy (Mathias)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The People stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, 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 God, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

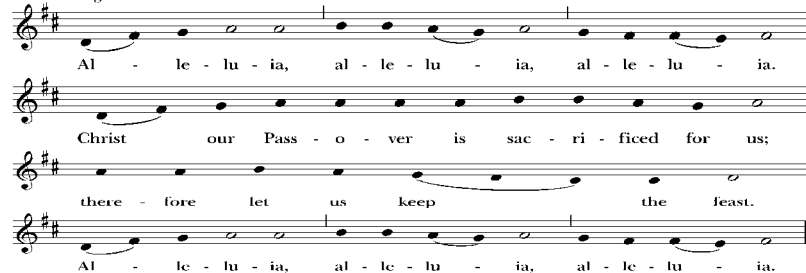
forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM S 154 *Christ our Passover (Hurd)*

This setting is not used in Lent.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION

Celebrant Behold what you are:

People May we become what we receive.

COMMUNION HYMN *Like the murmur of the dove's song* Hymnal (1982) #513

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS (sung)

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring
hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,*

*and where there's sadness, ever joy.
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life*

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.**

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Lord, whose love through humble service* Hymnal (1982) #610

DISMISSAL

Celebrant

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Lead On, O Lord Eternal

BY HENRY T. SMART

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Parish Staff

The Reverend Ayden J. Petrone, LCSW
Priest-in-Charge

Rachel Gasataya,
Music Director

Trina Rios
Office Assistant

Vestry

Pam Maiolo (Senior Warden)
Amy Myzie (Junior Warden)
Ilia Scriven (Parish Treasurer)
Christy McGuire
Marie Petit-Homme
Elaine Patania

Cynthia Pelliccia
Gerrienne Breck
Grace McDougall
Michelle Klastava
Paul Sinckler
Oliva DiAgostino

Church Office Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays
10am-2pm

Rev. Ayden's In-Office Hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays
8:30 am- 1:30 pm

Work from Home: Thursdays

Sabbath: Fridays

If you would like a pastoral visit at home, please reach out to Ayden on their cell phone, by email, or call the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER & SERVICES:

CENTERING PRAYER

Tuesdays, 3 pm, St. Francis' Zoom

COMPLINE PRAYER:

Wednesdays, 7 pm, St. Francis' Zoom

INTERCESSORY PRAYER:

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm, St. Francis' Zoom

FELLOWSHIP:

COFFEE WITH A CLERIC:

Monday's at 8:30/8:45 am at DaLuca's Coffee Shop, on North Ave., Dunellen

COFFEE HOUR:

Sunday's after 10 am service in Milbank Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BETTER WORLD CHANGERS FOOD DISTRIBUTION @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNELLEN 218 DUNELLEN AVE.

May 22, 2024 11:00am

DUNELLEN GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 1, 2024 (Rain date June 8, 2024)

PISCATAWAY STREET FAIR

Saturday, June 8, 2024

MASS ON THE GRASS

Sunday, June 9, 2024