



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5th Sunday after Easter

April 28, 2024

All are Welcome Here

In addition to this powerpoint, you can follow the worship using the small book with the cross on the front, found in our pews. We begin on page 355. Music is found in the blue hymnal unless otherwise indicated

For those of you joining us online, visit

www.ststephensaurora.org/weekly-bulletin for a copy of the bulletin.

PRELUDE

Improvisation Frank Perko III

OPENING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions
(please see bulletin page 16 for hymn)

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

HYMNAL 1982 #S-278

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant offers an opening prayer.

FIRST LESSON

Please be seated for the first reading.

Following each reading, the people respond

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 22:24-30 (Deus, Deus meus)

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

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and
those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
“May your heart live forever!”

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

For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.

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

My soul shall live for him; my descendants
shall serve him;

they shall be known as the Lord's forever.

They shall come and make known to a
people yet unborn,

the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND LESSON

Please listen to the second reading.

Following each reading, the people respond

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

(please see page 18 in bulletin for hymn)

Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so!
Little ones to him belong:
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died
heaven's gate to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
close beside me all the way;
he's prepared a home for me,
and some day his face I'll see.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Please rise for a reading of the gospel

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you Lord Christ.

*At the conclusion of the reading, please join in the
response:*

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Kate Bradsen

THE RENEWAL of BAPTISMAL VOWS

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and
renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and
return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbors as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
I will, with God's help.

CELEBRATION OF RITE 13

The Presentation

The Psalm Reading

Celebrant: Let us join with Mayar, Kymbrlee, and Joseph, and the other members of Rite 13 in reading a portion of Psalm 119. The congregation is asked to join in the antiphon.

Young People: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.

All: With my whole heart I seek you.

Young People: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

All: With my whole heart I seek you.

Young People: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

All: With my whole heart I seek you.

Young People: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

All: With my whole heart I seek you.

THE PRAYERS FOR THE PARENTS

THE CHARGE TO THE
YOUNG PEOPLE

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

(please stand)

As the living body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of God that spans the generations, share your knowledge and experience with Mayar, Kymbrlee, and Joseph as they journey to adulthood?

Congregation: We will.

Will you guide, guard, and sustain them as they grow into the full stature of Christ?

Congregation: We Will.

THE BLESSINGS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And, also with you.

(Please greet those around you and be seated.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *N.N.* 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 lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for an Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and the Church: 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 true godliness, 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.

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Toccata on “Amazing Grace”

J. Christopher Pardini

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 2

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And, so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

HYMNAL 1982 #S-128

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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts

of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time, bring us with St. Stephen and all of your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,

They 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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL 1982 #S-155

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. As the ushers direct, you may come forward to receive, standing or kneeling at the Altar Rail, or let the usher know you wish to receive Communion in your pew. If you need a gluten free wafer, fold your hands down or let the priest know. You may drink from the common cup or intinct (dip) your wafer. If you do not wish to receive communion, cross your arms to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Improvisation

Frank Perko III

COMMUNION HYMN

I the Lord of Sea and Sky

(please see pages 14-15 in bulletin for hymn)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in deepest sin
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

if you lead me,

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

if you lead me,

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

if you lead me,

I will hold your people in my heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

THE BLESSING

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

Amen.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

Amen.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

Amen.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

And, the blessing of God, who creates, redeems,
and sanctifies, be upon you and all you love and
pray for this day, and forevermore. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Siyahamba

(please see page 17 of bulletin for hymn)

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,

Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,

Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

Siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

Siyahamba,

Oh, siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

Siyahamba,

Oh, siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

We are moving in the power of God.

We are moving,

Oh, we are moving in the power of God.

We are moving,

Oh, we are moving in the power of God.

Siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

Siyahamba,

Oh, siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

Siyahamba,

Oh, siyahamba ku kha ny en kwen khos.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,

Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,

Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Frank Perko III