

**April 28, 2024
10:00 AM**

**The Fifth Sunday
of Easter**

Morning Prayer



St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
www.ssitf.org

**We the people of Saint Stephen's in-the-Field
seek to know Christ, to share Christ, and to serve Christ,
recognizing his presence in all people,
and reaching out in love to each other and to the world around us.**

Opening Hymn: YSB

Opening Sentence

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Confession

Officiant: 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**

Absolution

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Opening Versicle (*stand*)

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Invitatory Psalm

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: **Come let us adore him.**

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant and people

Come, let us sing to the Lord:*

Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*

And raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,*

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,*

And the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,*

And his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,*

And kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm of the Day:

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.

Officiant and people

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Lessons *(please be seated)*

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from 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.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Gradual: YSB

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

A reading from the Gospel of John.

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 word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: *Christian Love*, by Anthony F.M. Clavier

The Apostles' Creed *(please stand as you are able)*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Suffrages

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: **And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: **Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Leader: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: **Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth; you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People (please stand as you are able)

Leader: Christ has gathered us as branches of the true vine. Let us offer prayers to God who does for us whatever we ask.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Philip the Apostle of Scotts Valley.

For the whole world and all the churches of God.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For this holy gathering, and for our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For all the baptized whose faces shine with the light of Christ.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Lucinda, our Bishop, for our priest, Karen, for all who minister, and all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For those who suffer and those who mourn; stir up in us a spirit of grace and generosity, that we may give freely to those in need.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For all places in strife and unrest, that you may inspire all your people to seek a just peace and that we may hear the voices of those who are unheard.

Glory and praise to you,

People: O living God.

Leader: For all those requiring ongoing care and for all those in danger and need: those who are sick or suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, those who are hungry, homeless, or oppressed. We especially pray for...

Silence

Glory and praise to you,

People: **O living God.**

Leader: For the dying and the dead, we pray, especially for ...

Silence

Glory and praise to you,

People: **O living God.**

Leader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

Glory and praise to you,

People: **O living God.**

Leader: Remembering our most glorious and Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you,

People: **O Lord, our God.**

All: **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace to love our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Exchange peace.

***Offertory:* YSB**

Doxology (Old 100th):

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav-en-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements (please be seated)

Prayers for Celebrations

Loving Creator, You are the source of life and the source of love. We thank you for all who celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special events today. Watch over them as their days increase, bless and guide them wherever they may be. May your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives, and may your love for the world shine through them and the deep relationships they cherish, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please stand

Concluding Versicle and Response

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Sentence

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Mission Song: YSB

Mark your calendar

- Wednesday Book Group, every Wednesday morning at St. John's, 11am
 - Saturday, May 4th – Spring Fundraiser and BBQ at St. Stephen's, 5pm
- Buy tickets at ssitf.org or use this QR code with your phone:



- Sunday, June 9th – Picnic at St. John's after the service
- Sunday, June 16th – Pride Potluck at St. Stephen's after the service

Vestry Members

Janet Thorsrud & Susan Zaballos, *Senior Wardens* • Rob van der Molen, *Junior Warden* • Anthony Francis • Jessica Dickinson Goodman •
Andy Lief, *Treasurer/Finance* • Jill Vaughn, *Clerk*