



St. Cross

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · www.stcross.org

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.



Welcome to worship at St. Cross!

Newcomers and Visitors: We strive to live into the gospel ideal of being an open and welcoming community. We know it is hard when you see your favorite people after a year (and may even have a vaccine). However, with COVID restrictions we ask that you remain in your assigned seating area and keep your mask on at all times.

Worship: The entire service is in this bulletin. The people's parts are in bold type. Generally, we sit for teachings and stand for prayers. Do not be concerned if you are unable to stand, do what is comfortable for you. Please let the ushers know if you need any assistance, such as communion brought to your seat.

Lessons and Sermon Notes

A few words on today's lessons about what you will hear, and what you will take with you through the week.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter—Year B

Welcome to our parish. On the final Sundays of Easter, our attention is directed to the results in our lives of Jesus' dying and rising: the results of Baptism and Eucharist. The Gospel reading today describes our life in Christ. That life is characterized by our love for Jesus as the ground of our faithfulness. We are as intimately bound up in the life of the risen Jesus as the branches of a plant, drawing our new life directly from him.

Like a vine growing new branches, the early Church began to spread beyond Jerusalem almost immediately, bound together in Christ's love and led by the Spirit. In today's reading from Acts, Philip, one of the seven ordained with Stephen, preaches the Gospel to an official of the Queen of Ethiopia. This preaching was prompted by the official's reading of the "Suffering Servant" passage from Isaiah (52:13-53:12). The Ethiopian is converted and baptized on the spot.

We, the People of God, gather in Eucharist to remember and share the story of God's love for us. Our actions in Eucharist are a liturgical expression of self-giving love toward God and others. As we receive Holy Communion, God implants in us Jesus' own life and equips us to extend the divine love to all people in concrete actions of ministry and proclamation.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.
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*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God:
In thanksgiving for all the volunteers who are helping with our in-person services
for our St. Cross community*

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Please stand as the clergy enter.

Opening Hymn

Hymn 296

If attending in person, please sing with your hearts and not your voices.



We know that Christ is raised and dies no more._____
We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death._____
The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life._____
A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows_____



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold;_____
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life_____

The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God._____
as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood._____



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy._____
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.____ Al - le -
Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.____
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:_____



lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant and People together say

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

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	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.**

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Please be seated

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.

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

Psalm 22:24-30

The Psalm will be read responsively. The people read the parts in bold.

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 for ever!”**

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 for ever.**

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

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Please stand as you are able for the gospel reading. It is customary to make a small cross on one's forehead, lips, and heart at the opening acclamation as a sign that we keep the gospel ever in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

Deacon 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Nyback

Following the sermon, a time of silence for private meditation is observed.

Nicene Creed

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.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who 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

Please stand. We pray for the church in all places, for the world and our nation, for the needs of others, for ourselves, and for those who have died. You are welcome to add your own petitions as we pray. To add names to the prayer list, please go to stcross.org/pray

*The response to “God of Grace” is “**Hear our prayer**”.*

Officiant

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:”
Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that
heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Peace

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Please greet one another in the name of Christ by remaining by your chair and offering a gesture of peace to your neighbors. Please keep social distancing even if vaccinated.

Announcements

Announcements are made at this time.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

During the setting of the table a collection is taken online at www.stcross.org/give and has been given in person, to support the life and ministry of St. Cross.

Offertory Hymn

#397 vs. 1

The people stand as they are able. The Hymn is sung by the choir only.

Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Celebrant

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

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

People and Celebrant say together

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

The Celebrant breaks the bread.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

At St. Cross all who come in faith, seeking deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to the altar as directed by the usher. Please keep 6-foot spacing from those in front of you. Take the sacrament of bread back to your seat and consume the sacrament at your seat. If you would prefer not to receive the sacrament, cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will offer a (non-touch) blessing instead.

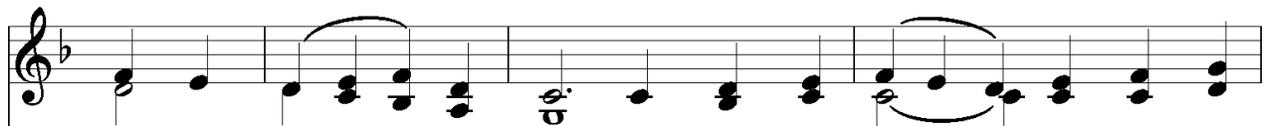
Communion Hymn

Hymn WLP 765

If attending in person, please sing with your hearts and not your voices.



1. O bless - ed spring, where Word and sign em - brace us
2. Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3. When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4. As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - te - ry: that Word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy _____ a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of _____ the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree _____ of Life.

Prayer After Communion

After Communion, the people stand as they are able and the Celebrant says
 Most loving God, creator and redeemer, we give this foretaste of your glory.

People and Celebrant

**Loving God,
 we give you thanks,
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

The priest blesses the people

May the peace of the ocean wave be with you. The peace of the ocean breeze surround you. The peace of the quiet earth be in you. The peace of the night stars cover you. The deep peace of the Son of Peace be always with you. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Hymn 205

If attending in person, please sing with your hearts and not your voices.



1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the



1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Today's Ministers – 10:00am

Celebrant	The Rev. Nathan Biornstad
Preacher	The Rev. Rachel Nyback
Deacon	The Rev. Patti Angelo
Organist/Choirmaster	Sean O'Neal
Cantor	Dan Wilson
Lector	Scott Crowell
Intercessor	Kathy Gonzalez
Ushers	Sherry Graham, Lizabeth Thompson, Michelle Weissenberg, Marilyn Young
Set Up	Kendra Carman, Jon Wright, James Wikkramatilleke
Take Down	Cameron Johnson, James Wikkramatilleke

Vestry

Seth Barnes, Senior Warden
 Greg Bellavia
 David Charlton, Junior Warden
 Sherry Graham, Secretary
 Jessica Gregg
 Steve Pringle
 Ann Rogerson
 Courtney Shott
 Jim Sullivan, Treasurer
 Lizabeth Thompson
 Anne Tittle
 James Wikkramatilleke

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rachel A. Nyback · Rector
Rnyback@stcross.org

The Rev. Nathan Biornstad
 Associate for Pastoral Care
nbiornstad@stcross.org

The Rev. Stephen Smith
 Associate for Christian Formation
ssmith@stcross.org

The Rev. Patti Angelo
 Deacon
pangelo@stcross.org

The Rev. Cn. Robert (Bob) Cornner
 Priest in Residence

The Rev. Cn. Paul Lawson
 Rector Emeritus

Sean O'Neal · Organist and Choirmaster
soneal@stcross.org

Trudy Bush · Parish Administrator
info@stcross.org

Merrill Whatley · Communications Coordinator
connect@stcross.org

David Dawson · Facilities Manager
facilities@stcross.org

Judi Kelly · Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@stcross.org

Cameron Johnson · Connection Coordinator
cjohnson@stcross.org