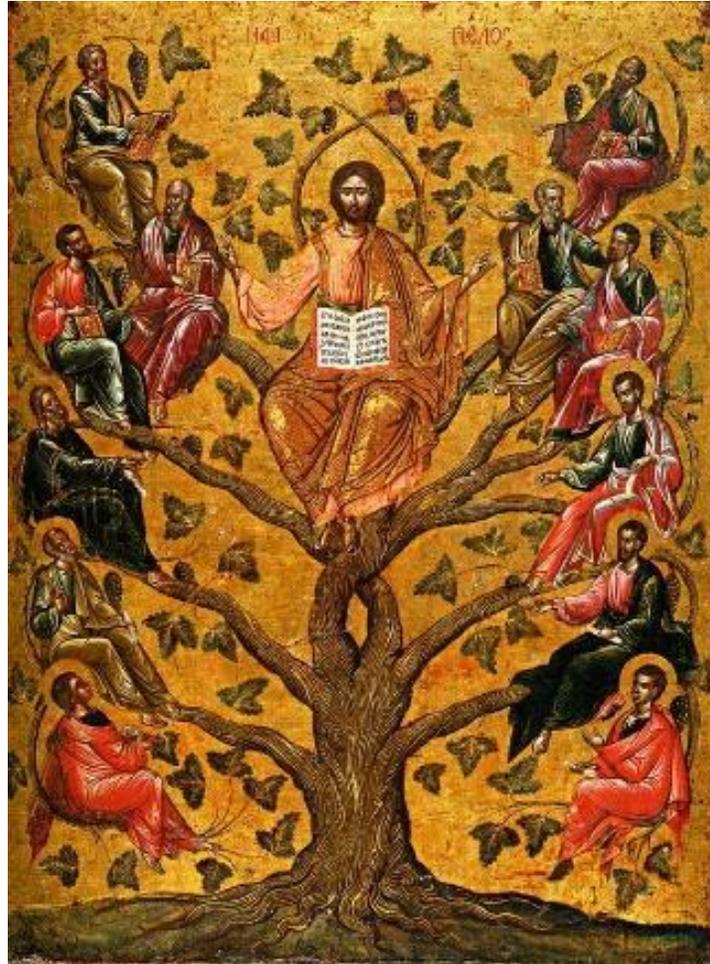


The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



*We welcome you to our virtual service of worship
and hope you'll share the good news proclaimed and lived here at Calvary,
Columbia, Missouri.*

*We look forward to seeing you when we can gather together again in person.
Until that day, God bless and keep you.*

Calvary Episcopal Church

123 South Ninth Street, Columbia, MO

www.calvaryonninth.org

Welcome to Calvary Episcopal Church in Columbia, MO. We're so glad you've joined us to worship during this Easter Season.

This is a full-service bulletin. If you prefer to use your Book of Common Prayer, the page numbers are listed as well.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Opening Acclamation: BCP, 355

The Celebrant says

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect of the Day

Officiant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: 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.

People: Amen.

The First Reading

Lector: A reading from the book of Acts.

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. (8:26-40)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Lector: The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 22:24-30. We will read it in unison.

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.

The Second Reading

Lector: 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. (4:7-21)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Deacon or priest: 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." (15:1-8)

Deacon or priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Holy Conversation on the Word

An Affirmation of Faith

**I believe that you, O God, created humanity, female and male,
in your image.**

**I hear you, O Lord, and your call to love you with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind,
and your command to love my neighbors as myself.**

**I accept others, just as you have accepted me,
in order to bring praise to you, O God.**

**I hope to shine like the stars in the universe
as I hold out the word of life to my community.
I am committed to growing in your knowledge and love
and to participating in the life of my faith community.
I praise you for removing my sackcloth and clothing me with yourself
so that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.
I hope through Jesus the Risen One in the power of the Holy Spirit
now and forever. Amen.^[2]**

Prayers of the People

Deacon: “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised.” In the light of resurrection’s power we are given new birth in Christ Jesus. Having been made new let us offer our prayers to the Holy One.

Leader: You who in dawn’s first light summoned creation anew through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; summon us afresh to be sentinels of light, hope and resurrection that in a world gripped by death, despair and desolation we may be beacons of life, joy and love. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope and love. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free from enslavement to division, disunity and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos. Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions

of race, class, gender and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity.
Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost and the least; shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts [_____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare and strife. Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts [_____]. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

Leader: You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth our island home. Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse and neglect our fellow creatures. Christ be our light.

People: Shine in our hearts.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal Power, be our strength. Eternal Wisdom, guide us as we serve you. Grant that with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our strength, we may evermore seek your presence, and by your infinite love remain in you, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us make our confession.

A moment of silence is kept.

**Eternal Mother, Compassionate Father
we confess that we have believed the lie
that we are not in you and you are not in us,
and we have lived that lie in what we have done,
and by letting things go undone.
We have forgotten to love you with our whole heart;**

**we have refused to love our neighbors
and we have failed to love ourselves.
We are ready now to change this
to receive the gift of your healing and wholeness.
Knowing the frailty of our humanity,
we open ourselves to the strength of your divinity.
We ask you to overshadow us and breathe new life into us,
for only then are we able to follow you in your way,
serve the welfare of your people,
and glorify your Holy Name by our lives. Amen.**

The Absolution

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

The Peace. BCP, 360

Celebrant: *La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.*
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us awaken our hearts and see that God is with us.

People: God's Spirit is here, in, around, and among us.

Celebrant: Creator God, your daughters and sons gather as a brood under the safety of your wing, remembering the story of your great love for all you have created and re-mem-bering ourselves to you and to all of your saints on earth and in heaven. Your song of praise rises up from within us and flows forth from us as with one voice we join with the heavenly chorus and sing:

People **Holy, holy, holy are you,
God of powerful love and light.
All creation is a reflection of your glory, Hosanna!
Blessed are you and your continual self-giving! Hosanna!**

Merciful God, your loving care for us has been offered countless times, catching us up into you every time we strayed and lost our way. Then, being kindness, you responded to our blindness, willfulness, and lostness by taking on flesh like ours, eliminating all that separated us. Expressing yourself in the person of Jesus, the Christ, we could see you, touch you, talk with you, and learn to become like you, corporal temples of the Eternal One. But we struggled to understand and surrender to such unconditional mercy, and we projected our fear onto you, onto one another, and onto your creation.

Knowing that nothing short of everything would be required for our salvation, you gathered your friends together, as you'd done so many times before. The meal was simple: bread and wine. In your hands and by your prayers, however, this simple food became holy food, the food of life.

You took the bread, and giving thanks, you broke the bread, gave it to your friends and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

Then, you took the cup of wine, and lifted it up in thanksgiving, gave it to your friends 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. As often as you drink it, do this to remember me.'

Loving Christ, Gentle Guide, by the power of your unfathomable love you transformed these simple gifts of bread and wine into holy food, which you gave to your ordinary friends, transforming them into holy people.

+ Now bless and sanctify our simple gifts of bread and wine, making them into your body and blood, and grant that all who share this holy food are made one body, one spirit in Christ. +Bless and sanctify us also, that we may trust your choice of us to be bearers of your way, your truth, and your life into the world.

All: **We praise you, we trust you,
and we surrender ourselves to you
offering nothing short of everything.**

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, we honor and glorify you Motherly Father, Liberating Son, and Holy Wisdom, Trinity in Unity, now and forever.

All: AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, with humility and confidence, we pray:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the
peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts that we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.[4]**

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**People: We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: If you are thirsty, drink the Fount of Life.
If you are hungry, eat the Bread of Life.
Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread
And thirst for this Fount. [5]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: God of Elizabeth and Zachariah, Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca, Leah, and Isaac; God the Divine Mother and Father of the wholeness of our being; we give you thanks for the gift of life. In your name we celebrate the special qualities that you have given us: the gift of connectedness, the gift of empathy, the gift of compassion, the gift of nurturing, the gift of insight, the gifts of flexibility and multiplicity. Guide us, gracious God, that we may claim the unique strengths of these gifts and use them to your glory in the world. Give us the wisdom to honor these attributes within ourselves that they may be used freely, fully, and always in your name.^[6] Amen.

The Blessing

God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. Amen. *(source: Celtic, Enriching Our Worship, 70)*

Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Calvary's Prayer List

New names may be added to the prayer list by emailing the church office.

Ted, Helen, Madalyn, Lonnajean, Judalyn, Scott, Bob, Barbara, The Abadir Family, Nancy, The Sessions family, Rebecca, Judy, Gary, Chris, Frank, Dale, Heather, Dougie, Delaney, John, Colleen, Paul, Sue, Carolyn, Phyllis, Stephanie, Recil, Gail, Jim, Dana, Julie, Joel, Sharon, Ben, Dan, Kathy, Larisa, David, Bernadene, and Mary J.

For Health of Body and Soul (BCP p. 460) May God, the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

For the repose of the soul of Ruth Welliver who departed this life on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

Calvary Episcopal Church Announcements

May 2, 2021

Greetings from the Senior Warden. I want to provide an update about what the Vestry and folks in the Calvary community have been up to during the time our Church building has been closed. There has been a lot going on and I'm sure I'll miss something important that someone in our faith community has accomplished with God's help and I apologize in advance. It was in March of last year that response to the COVID pandemic required that the Calvary building be closed. Gathering for worship and providing many of Calvary's ministerial services as we had previously known them had to cease and be reimagined for life during a pandemic. Through it all, Calvary has remained a vibrant and active parish.

Here's some of what has happened:

- Mother Valori began her Interim Ministry at Calvary—Welcome to COMO!
- The Vestry met every 2 weeks for a while to plan a COVID response (work continues)
- Zoom worship was initiated (a new experience for all)
- Equipment was purchased for livestreaming worship and livestreams began
- Rite Place gathered outdoors (weather permitting) on Wednesday evenings
- Study groups and book clubs met via Zoom
- The Blessing Box filled with necessities was installed outside the Parish Hall
- Saturday Café was transitioned to Saturday Café to Go
- The Calvary website was reimagined to be more user friendly and contain more content
- Calvary's core ministries were redefined into four categories
- The annual Stewardship Pledge Campaign became ministry based...and virtual
- A Rector Search Discernment Team was formed and began work
- The Calvary Annual Meeting was held via Zoom

- Work with Loaves and Fishes and Room at the Inn continued
- Parish Summits were held via Zoom to help determine where Calvary is as a parish
- Calvary's Advent Bazaar went virtual with great success
- The church's organ has undergone much needed repairs
- Volunteers continued to help with various ministries and their required tasks
- Newsletters were added for Christian Formation and Worship Opportunities
- Additional Worship opportunities were added online: Morning/Noonday/Evening Prayer and Compline
- The Treasurer and Finance Committee worked to keep Calvary's finances sound
- The Clergy and Staff of Calvary kept us moving forward despite COVID challenges

In short, it has been a busy year! We are thankful that God has led us to be His Church through the challenges offered by the pandemic. There are a lot of opportunities to be involved in the life and ministry of Calvary. To paraphrase Bishop Deon, "our building may be closed, but the Church is open." Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as it works to safely open our building as soon as possible. And...thanks for being part of the Calvary community!

Volunteer Opportunity! LeeAnn Ball has volunteered to Co-Chair the famous Calvary Advent Bazaar again this year. The Bazaar team did a fantastic job in making the 2020 virtual Bazaar a great success. She is looking for some help and it is never too early to start thinking about the Bazaar. If you didn't know, all the proceeds from the Bazaar go to Calvary's Community Outreach Ministry. It is also a great opportunity to share Calvary's story and mission with folks from outside the parish who visit us on Bazaar day. We hope and pray that the 2021 Bazaar will have both in-person and virtual components. If you are able to participate on the Bazaar team, please reach out to LeeAnn or the church office and we will get you plugged in. This is a great opportunity to participate in one of Calvary's traditions and get involved in outreach ministry.

The 2020 Vestry Stewardship Covenant

Your vestry developed this Stewardship Covenant using a process of spiritual discernment and seeking divine guidance through Scripture and prayer. This

covenant reflects where we feel God is leading us as a Vestry in our ministry of stewardship. We make this covenant among ourselves as a vestry and with God as we serve the parish. It is not meant to be a Stewardship Covenant for Calvary Episcopal Church parish as a whole. We pray that all members will prayerfully reflect on our invitation to you within this covenant.

WE BELIEVE that God will provide us with what we need. We have faith that God will show us how to use and share our resources with others.

WE COMMIT to reflect prayerfully as individuals and as a community to listen to what God is saying to us, trusting in divine guidance. We realize that God values us and knows our needs as individuals and as the church.

WE INVITE all to join us in trusting in the promises of God to nourish, protect, and love us, meeting all our needs. God will provide us with the resources to serve our community and all creation; we invite all to join in stewarding these resources for the well-being of our community and the world.

To make your pledge online, fill in the 2021 Pledge Card on the [Stewardship](#) page on our website.



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