

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 2023

## The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### **Prelude,**

**The Procession,** *please stand as able.*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing* Hymnal 493

**The Opening Sentences** The Book of Common Prayer, 355

Song of Praise: The *Gloria* Hymnal S278 BCP 355

#### **The Collect of the Day**

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 First Lesson,** *please be seated.*

#### **Acts 7:55-60**

*Note: Stephen is the first martyr for Christ, a martyrdom witnessed, if not encouraged, by Paul (then Saul). How would that have played in Paul's memory? Denial? Diminishment? Deflection? Or the truth, perhaps, leading to the spread of the Good News? God turns the terrible into the wonderful. There are literally no dead ends.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

#### **The Psalm**

##### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

*Note: In a difficult time, this psalm illustrates there are two movements toward God. First, a plea for God's help and protection. But secondly, and crucially, a surrender of the self to God. The first usually comes easily but is of no avail without the second. What needs to be turned over to God right now?*

#### **In te, Domine, speravi**

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 **Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 **My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

#### **The Epistle:**

##### **1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Note: We more often need to be reminded rather than to receive new information.*

*Maybe it takes time to sink in. Maybe we are just to prone to forget. God loves you, no matter what. In that is your strength. How can you remember this?*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner",

and

"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

**Sequence Hymn:** *Lord, We Lift Your Name on High* Joyful Noise Band

#### **The Gospel:**

##### **John 14:1-14**

*Note: What are the "many dwelling places" ("mansions", KJV)? Is it our own place in heaven? Are they places along the journey of life? Could they be ordinary loving people, indwelt by God, where we might experience God's love? Could you be such a place where God lives for the world?*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

#### **The Homily,**

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler

*Silence for reflection follows.*

#### **The Prayers of the People**

*Kneeling or standing.*

Blessings of Special Intention.

Greetings, News, Thanksgivings, and Acknowledgements.

Closing Prayer

Confession and Absolution

#### **The Peace**

*Standing, as able.*

BCP 360

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### **The Offertory**

Anthem

*Steal Away*

**The Doxology,** *standing.*

Hymnal 380 v.3

#### **The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer A**

BCP 361

*The Sursum Corda . kneeling or standing.*

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.***

The Proper Preface of the Sunday

The *Sanctus* *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

BCP 362 S130

The People's AMEN

BCP 363

#### **The Preparation for the Distribution**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

#### **Choir Anthem**

*Oh, Happy Day*

**The Invitation:** The Gifts of God for the People of God.

***Please come and share in the Communion of Christ.***

Postcommunion Prayer

*kneeling or standing*

BCP 365

#### **The Blessing**

**Processional Hymn** *The Church's One*

Hymnal 525

#### **The Dismissal Response**

BCP 366

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,  
Alleluia, alleluia!

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

## WE PRAY FOR...

### Our Parish Family, especially

✚ ALEX, PAT, ANNA MARIE, AMANDA, RITA, WANDA, ROBIN, DONOVAN, JIM B., JERRY, CHUCK, BILL W., MARK, KIM, TED, SHARON, FRED, JOHN T., WALTON, REBA, DEBORAH, JOHN D., SCOTT, MARTI, FRAN, DAKOTA. DEACON JUDITH & MARGARET C.

✚ FR. JAMIE.

✚ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.

✚ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile.

### Those in the Armed Forces, especially

✚ MARNYCE, JERRY, NICK, JOYCE, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, JAKE, ROSE, GAVIN, DAVID & NOAH.

### Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

✚ HEALING: HILARY, BONNIE, GRIFFEN, BECKY, JESS, JOHN, JIM, DANA, SHONDA, DIANE, SANDRA, WESTON, DIANE, BEVERLY, DAN, LARAMIE, DON, RANDALL, GARY, MARTHA, PAM, CHUCK, CLARISSA, THOMAS, BECKY, JUDY, TIM, PINKIE, MELODY, ROBIN, MICHELLE, TROY, MICHELLE, LOGAN, KIMBERLY, DALE, REBECCA, KATHLEEN, STEVE, JAN, ANDY, JOHN, IVY, MAEGAN, ORSON, JOANNE, SHI SHI, PAPA RED, MAX, JANE, GILL, TERRY, PATTI, PATTY, KATHLEEN, JUSTIN, MR. B, CHRIS, BRANDON & SHAWN.

✚ COMFORT: PAT, RYAN & PEGGY & FAMILY.

### WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week. Trish is currently updating our military prayer list. If you added someone to the list please contact her at 770-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com

Prayer request cards are available on the back of the pews.

### A Good Question

If you could only ask God one question, what would it be?...

"Show us the Father," Philip says, "and we will be satisfied." Or, to put it more directly, "What does God look like?..."

God is too much, you see, for us to bear — too holy, too powerful, too infinite, too full of potential and life and the future for any mere mortal to behold and live. And yet Philip asks to see God anyway. "If you want us to trust you, Jesus, just show us the Father." That is, "What does God look like?..."

Each of us have had had moments where we wanted some reassurance, some glimmer of hope, that all that we had heard and learned about God is not just some false story but true. "Just show us the Father," we plea, "and we will be satisfied."...

To which Jesus responds, not in frustration but in love, both to Philip and to us, "Have I been with you all this time and yet still you don't know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the father!..."

Keep in mind that in the story John tells we are on the eve of the crucifixion. Jesus is about to be betrayed, abandoned, handed over, tried, insulted, beaten, and then crucified, nailed to a cross and hung there to die. Why? To appease the righteous anger of a just God? To set for us some kind of example of what real faith looks like? To take the just punishment we deserve? No.

Jesus goes to the cross for one reason and one reason only: to show us God, to show us God's grace and mercy, to show just how much God loves us and how far God will go to communicate that love to us that we might believe and, believing, have life in his name.

David Lose

Jamie ✚

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Today

Please join us after the service for a potluck lunch across the parking lot in Davis Hall.

### Adult Forum

Today Fr. Jamie will lead a discussion **Tokens & Trust**.

### Book Club

5/8 1:30 p.m. Davis Hall to discuss **Ellis Island**. The June book is **Ship of Fools** by Katherine Anne Porter and July is **When I'm Gone** by Emily Bleeker. Contact: Sallee Macknik at sallee\_m@yahoo.com.

### Women's Group/Inbetweeners

5/9 11: a.m. J. Christopher's, 1437 Riverstone Pkwy, Canton. Susan Gensel is leading contact: hickoryfarms@comcast.net.

### Mother's Day Photo Booth!

5/14 Come and get pictures of your entire family or just your beautiful mother in the narthex!

### Daughters of the King

5/14 1:30 p.m. Davis Hall to continue the study of where Jesus prayed. Contact: Trish Cole trishcole4@gmail.com.

### Parish Picnic

5/20 Saturday 12-4 p.m. Food, fun and fellowship for all! Please bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share. St. Clement's will provide hamburgers, chips, baked beans and drinks.

### Fiesta! Vacation Bible School

6/12-16 9-12 Monday through Friday. Registration available on website.

### ECW

6/19 7 p.m. Davis Hall. There will be no meeting in May due to retreat. Contact Wanda Carr (404) 861-5011 or wandakiddcarr@gmail.com

### Rector's Wednesday Zoom Noon Bible Study

Gospel of John this Wednesday, Contact the office for the Zoom link.

### The Altar Guild

has dates available on the flower chart if you have someone or something special you would like to commemorate.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *rector*  
770-324-2035

email

frjamie@stclementscanton.org

Carlotta Ford, *administrator*  
770-345-6722

email stclements@stclementscanton.org

rate. The chart is in the notebook in the narthex. **The Altar Guild is also looking for talented flower arrangers.** Please contact Trish Cole (770)-377-4348 or trishcole4@gmail.com to join the team.

### The Men's Group

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. (IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton)  
Contact: stclementsmensgroup@gmail.com.

St. Clement's newest music ensemble is the **Joyful Noise Band**. If you play a musical instrument, we'd love to have you join us! The band plays 9 a.m. every 3rd Sunday. Contact Judy Reardon - judy.reardon@icloud.com.

### Wednesday Night:

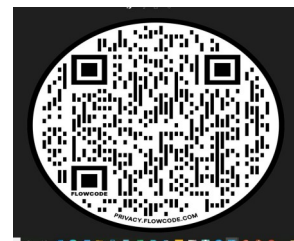
Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist begins at 6:15 with a meal at 6:45 and youth and bible study following at 7 p.m.

### Military Prayer list:

Please contact Trish Cole if you requested the names on the list. We are attempting to keep the list current. trishcole4@gmail.com.

**Online Giving** available through our website [www.stclementscanton.org](http://www.stclementscanton.org) or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

Scan to visit our website for more information.



**Anniversaries this week:**  
Al & Amanda Jacobsen  
5/7



**Birthdays this week**  
Solomon Osazenaye 5/11

### TREASURER'S SUMMARY as of March 2023

Pledges YTD	\$81,021.48
Total Income	\$120,458.96
Total Expenses	\$83,763.70



## 5th Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

### Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor's card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

**SUNDAY SERVICES** //9 a.m. Contemporary //11 a.m. Traditional

### MONDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9 a.m.

### THURSDAY

Canton Al-Anon // 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY

Men's Group, IHOP // 11:30 a.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous // 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY

Morning Prayer (online) // 9 a.m.  
Women's AA// 12 noon

### WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer online // 9 a.m.  
Bible Study // 12 p.m.  
Women's AA // 12 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist // 6:15 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study // 7 p.m.  
Youth // 7 p.m.

**The Altar Flowers today are given by Trish Cole to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for her birthday.**

**Mailing address:** PO Box 4156, Canton, Georgia 30114  
**Phone** 770-345-6722 | **Web** [www.stclementscanton.org](http://www.stclementscanton.org)