

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 – 9:00 AM

Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



Apse Mosaic in Church of San Clemente, Rome – 12<sup>th</sup> c.

919 Tennis Ave  
Maple Glen, PA 19002  
215-646-4092

[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

**Prelude**

*Here I Am Lord (instrumental)*

arr. by **Daniel L. Schutte**

**Gather**

*Here I Am Lord*

by **Daniel L. Schutte**

**Verse 1**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and 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?

**Chorus**

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.

**Verse 2**

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?

**Verse 3**

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?

*Celebrant* ✠ Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity*

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.**

**Praise**

*King of Kings*

**by Brooke and Scott Ligertwood & Jason Ingram**

Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in One  
God of Glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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 Reading**

**Acts 8:26-40**

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?” And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 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.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

**Meditation**

*His Banner Over Me Is Love*

**Traditional**

**Verse 1**

The Lord is mine and I am His  
His banner over me is love  
The Lord is mine and I am His  
His banner over me is love  
The Lord is mine and I am His  
His banner over me is love  
His banner over me is love

**Verse 2**

He is the vine and we are the branches  
His banner over me is love  
He is the vine and we are the branches  
His banner over me is love  
He is the vine and we are the branches  
His banner over me is love  
His banner over me is love

**Verse 3**

Jesus is the rock of my salvation  
His banner over me is love  
Jesus is the rock of my salvation  
His banner over me is love  
Jesus is the rock of my salvation  
His banner over me is love  
His banner over me is love

**Gospel** (*standing*)

**John 15:1-8**

✠ 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 vine grower. 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 Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

**Faith Song**      *Because We Believe*      **by Jamie Harvil & Nancy Gordon**

**Verse 1**

We believe in God the Father  
We believe in Christ the Son  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
We are the Church and we stand as one

**Verse 2**

We believe in the Holy Bible  
We believe in the virgin birth  
We believe in the resurrection  
That Christ one day will return to earth

**Chorus**

Holy holy. Holy is our God  
Worthy worthy. Worthy is our King

**The Prayers of the People - Form IV**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We ask your guidance for Bp. Daniel, Fr. Rodney, and Fr. Dave. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation; especially Dick, Margaret, Ava, Greg, Laura, Betty, Carol, Millie, Jane, Kathleen, Anthony, Steve, Avery, Fred, Christy, Kassandra, Tyler, Paul, Steve, Josephine, Caleb, Patti, Virginia, Polly, Eileen, Henry, Bernadette, Daniel, Roger, Erin, Mary, Giuliano, Claudia, Joan, Joanne, Brody, Joan, Mary Lou, Lorenzo, Dave, Diana and Sean.  
Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give your grace to this holy gathering and for all the people of God; for all first responders, health care workers, and law enforcement, especially Jamie and Justin; for those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack, William, and their families; and for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; especially Gilbert Smith, in whose memory the altar flowers are given by Josephine Smith and children, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Let us also pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

*All* **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*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. **Amen.**

## **The Peace** *(all stand)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

### **Offertory**

*Miracle in My Heart*

by **Brian Houston**

#### **Verse 1**

We are called  
To be prophets to this nation  
To be the word of God, in every situation  
Change my heart  
Change my heart today

#### **Verse 2**

Who'll be the salt  
If the salt should lose its flavor  
Who'll be the salt  
If the salt should lose its flavor  
Change my heart, change my heart today

#### **Pre-Chorus**

Lord loose the chains of oppression  
Lord set the captives free  
Lord fill my heart with compassion  
Shine Your light shine Your light  
Shine Your light through me

#### **Chorus**

Work a miracle in my heart  
Work a miracle in my heart  
Work a miracle in my heart  
O Lord today

#### **Verse 3**

Lord take all my lies  
And all of my greed  
Let me be a sacrifice  
For those who are in need  
Change my heart  
Change my heart today

#### **Verse 4**

Lord without Your power  
It's all just good intentions  
Lord without Your grace  
Who could find redemption  
Change my heart,  
change my heart today

## Eucharistic Prayer B

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

**Sanctus**

*Holy Holy Holy*

**by Larry Hampton**

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Is the Lamb of God  
Honor, praise and glory  
Are Yours, oh Lord, Forever

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.



On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### **Anthem**

*He Is Exalted*

**by Twila Paris**

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

### **Chorus**

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

*The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says*

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion**      *Captivate Us*      **by Charlie Hall, Christy & Nathan Nockels**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says the following blessing*

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Service Hymn

*Hear Our Praises*

by Reuben Morgan

### Verse 1

May our homes be filled with dancing  
May our streets be filled with joy  
May injustice bow to Jesus  
As the people turn and pray

### Verse 2

May our light shine in the darkness  
As we walk before the cross  
May Your glory fill the whole earth  
As the water over the seas

### Chorus

From the mountain to the valley  
Hear our praises rise to You  
From the heavens to the nations  
Hear our singing fill the air

### Bridge

Hallelujah hallelujah  
Hallelujah hallelujah

### Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Parish Calendar *for the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

<b>Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 PM	<b>Jonah &amp; Jesus: The Depths of Grace</b> <i>on Zoom*</i>
<b>Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10:00 AM	<b>Knit Wits</b> <i>in the Parish Hall</i>
	12:00 PM	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
	4:00 PM	<b>Handchime Rehearsal</b> <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
	7:00 PM	<b>Bible Study</b> <i>on Zoom</i>
<b>Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9:00 AM	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <i>on Zoom*</i>
<b>Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8:45 AM	<b>College Settlement Camp Clean-up</b>
<b>Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup></b>  <i>All services are held in the Sanctuary. 9AM service is also accessible via Livestream.</i>	7:45 AM	<b>Rite I Holy Eucharist</b>
	9:00 AM	<b>Rite II Holy Eucharist with Contemporary Music</b>
	9:00 AM	<b>CGS Sunday School</b> <i>in the Conference Room</i>
	9:00 AM	<b>Middle School</b> <i>in the Rector's Office</i>
	10:00 AM	<b>Coffee Hour</b> <i>in the Parish Hall</i>
	10:30 AM	<b>Rite II Choral Eucharist</b>
	12:30 PM	<b>Cinco de Mayo Skate Party</b> <i>@ Philly Skate Plex</i>

\*Access Zoom meeting links by going to [bit.ly/SMEC-Zoom-Gathering](https://bit.ly/SMEC-Zoom-Gathering)