

Welcoming all in the name of Christ

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at 8 a.m. April 28, 2024: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as the Celebrant enters the Chapel.

Acclamation and Collect for Purity BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 355

Song of Praise or Kyrie as appointed BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 356

The Collect of the Day All remain standing.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

The Readings The texts of the Readings are provided inside

The Lesson

The Psalm

The Epistle

The Holy Gospel

Response before the Gospel Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Response after the Gospel Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed All standing BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 358

The Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 360

The Peace

All may greet one another in the Lord's name.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer All stand.

The four Prayer Book forms of the Eucharistic Prayer begin on page 361. Following the proclamation of "Holy, holy, holy," the congregation may stand or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer (traditional form) BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 364

The Breaking of the Bread A brief silence is kept.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Altar rail.

Those not wishing to receive Communion may come forward for a blessing.

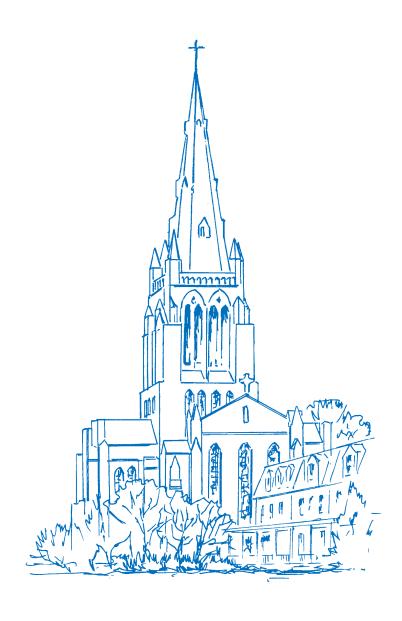
Post-Communion Prayer BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 365 or 366 All pray together, kneeling.

The Blessing

Dismissal All respond: Thanks be to God.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 9 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, Rite II



9:00 A.M. The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude on All Glory Be to God on High

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Congregation is asked to sit as far forward as possible, using the front pews of the Nave and of the Transepts.

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as the ministers enter.

Easter Acclamation

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 355

Priest Alle

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Song of Praise Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

HYMNAL, 487

All sing together.

Collect of the Day

The Readings All sit for the Lessons and Psalm.

The Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:24-30

The Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

Gospel Alleluia-Verse



God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

-1 John 4:16b

The Holy Gospel All standing

John 15:1-8

Response before the Gospel Glory to you, Lord Christ. Response after the Gospel Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Geoffrey S. Royce

The Nicene Creed Congregation standing

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 358

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Risen Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 360

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

All may greet one another.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn Like the murmur of the dove's song

All stand and sing together

Hymnal, 513

Eucharistic Prayer B

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 367

Sanctus Holy, holy, holy Lord

All sing together

HYMNAL, S 125

Hymnal "S"-numbers refer to Service Music, printed at the front of the Hymnal.

The service continues on page 368 of THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

The Lord's Prayer All say together

The Breaking of the Bread (A brief silence is kept.)

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Those not wishing to receive Communion may come forward for a blessing.

Parents are encouraged to bring children to receive Communion or a blessing.

Postcommunion Prayer All say together

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, page 365

The Blessing

Final Hymn Thou art the Way, to thee alone

HYMNAL, 457

Dismissal All respond Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude Fugue in G major ("Jig")

Bach

All who wish to listen to the postlude from the Choir Stalls are invited to do so.

Classes begin at 10 a.m.:

Christian Formation for children and youth; Gospel & Breakfast with Young Adult Ministry and Parents of Little Ones in the Evans Room; The Priest and Rabbi Class in McClintic Hall.



Join us at 10 a.m. in McClintic Hall

Rabbi Aaron Bisno and the Rev. Jonathon Jensen continue to teach a class together. We will focus on the great stories of Judaism in the Book of Genesis. Sessions are recorded and posted to Calvary's YouTube page with a link in the Friday email. All are welcome to attend.

Those wishing to make offerings by electronic transfer may use this QR Code to do so:





315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206 412.661.0120 | email: calvary@calvarypgh.org | www.calvarypgh.org Office Hours – 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday

■ CALVARY'S CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*The Rev. Cameron J. Soulis, *Associate Rector*The Rev. Geoffrey S. Royce, *Deacon*The Rev. Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*

The Rev. Carol Henley, Assisting Priest Rabbi Aaron Bisno, Rabbi-in-Residence Ms. Deanna Briody, McNulty Intern

Dr. Alan Lewis, Director of Music

Jon Tyillian, Assistant Organist
Lynda Kennedy, Director of Finance
Vicki Rispoli, Director of Children's Formation
Kenneth Smith, Director of Communications
Kim Pieratt, Parish Administrator
Jim Gubash, Head Sexton
Adam Augustine, Dontia James, Ron Johnston,
Mary Ann Packer, Guy Tillman, Sextons
Vivian Rispoli, A/V Technician

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2024 Jennifer De Rosa David Ieong Donald MacLeod, Jr. Laura Marchl 2025 Adam Bailey Kate Burroughs Lucy Douglas Peter Lewis

2026 David Riehl Wendy Lomicka James Manning Vanessa Sterling 2027 John Allison Elaine Effort Ian Everhart Lisa Nevola

Sarah Wilson, secretary

- The Parish Council -

2024 Jonathan Callard Jean Carr Emma Schauf 2025 Ann Augustine Mary Jane Bent Jeannine Farina 2026 Michele Bender Sue DeWalt, *President* Stanley Nevola 2027 Charles R. Altman Diana Page Ray Richter Anoo Verghis

Clergy Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of our clergy. We are ready to help.

- The Rev. Jonathon Jensen, jjensen@calvarypgh.org
- The Rev. Cameron Soulis, csoulis@calvarypgh.org
- Deacon Geoffrey Royce, groyce@calvarypgh.org
- Rabbi Aaron Bisno, aaron.b.bisno@gmail.com
 - Deanna Briody, dbriody@calvarypgh.org



April 28, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Our Parish Life

Guest Preacher

Calvary welcomes the Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden, Bishop of West Virginia, to be our preacher at 11 o'clock today.

He was consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor of West Virginia on March 12, 2022, and became Bishop Diocesan on October 14, 2022. After an early career as a college theater professor, he followed his joy to pursue ordained ministry and received his Master of Divinity degree at Virginia Theological Seminary. Bishop Cowden was ordained deacon and priest

in 2006. He served parishes in the Dioceses of Virginia and Northern Indiana. Bishop Cowden is a friend and recent colleague of our former Associate Rector, the Rev. T.J. Freeman.

A Death in our Parish Family

Amidst the ever present hope of Christ's resurrection, it is with sadness that we share the news that **James Knight**, our beloved retired sexton, died on Saturday, April 20. James worked for Calvary for 41 years, serving under four rectors. He was a fixture at Calvary, fixing cranky boilers, making candles, and devotedly caring for this building. He was known and loved by many who walked through our doors. James retired in October 2022 due to health issues. Following James' expressed wishes, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Instead, we are planning a festive lunch on **Sunday**, **September 29**, after the 11 o'clock service, when we will honor and celebrate him. More details to come. Please join us in holding his family and friends in your prayers.

Rest eternal grant to your servant, James, O Lord: And let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Upcoming Funeral Services at Calvary

A service to celebrate the life of **Patricia** (**Patsy**) **Smith** will be held at Calvary on **Friday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m.,** with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Patsy died on March 6, 2024.

A service to celebrate the life of **Genevieve Garvin-Isaac** will be held at Calvary on **Saturday, May 11 at 11:00 a.m.,** with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Genevieve died on October 11, 2023.

A service to celebrate the life of **Lee O'Nan** will be held at Calvary on **Saturday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m.,** with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Lee died on April 14, 2024.

A service to celebrate the life of **Jules (Jay) Labarthe, Jr.** will be held at Calvary on **Saturday, May 25 at 11:00 a.m.,** with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Jay died on March 28, 2024.

Notices for the Sunday service bulletin must be received by the end of the day on Wednesday each week. Please email your notice to calvary@calvarypgh.org

The 169th Annual Parish Meeting of Calvary Church will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10 a.m., in the Parish Hall.

Election of members of the Vestry and Parish Council will take place and reports from the Wardens, Treasurer and others will be given. Please make every effort to attend.

Gospel and Breakfast (GAB): Sundays, in the Evans Room

This class is for young adults and parents of young children to meet for fellowship, light breakfast, and a discussion of the Gospel passage appointed for the day. We gather in the Evans Room on Sundays during the Christian Formation hour (10–10:45 a.m.). The nursery will be open at that time, or you can bring your little one(s) along if you prefer. Drop in whenever you can. No prior knowledge needed. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Cameron Soulis (csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 123).

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer on Mondays and Thursdays will continue through the Easter season. We will meet each Monday and Thursday through May 23 at 6 p.m. in the Lady Chapel. (The only exception is Ascension Day, Thursday, May 9, when Evensong will be offered at 7:30 p.m.). Please join us! If you have questions or are interested in helping to lead this service, please contact Steve Shandor (steve.shandor@gmail.com) or Michael Salmon (oriolefish@gmail.com).

Prayer and Anointing for Healing on Sundays at 11 a.m.

Throughout the Easter season, we will offer healing prayer by anointing with oil and the laying on of hands during communion at the 11 a.m. service. If you would like to receive this healing prayer, please come to the Lady Chapel after you receive communion. The priest who is distributing communion at the station by the pulpit will join you there to offer this healing prayer. In Easter, we will evaluate to see if we want to continue this practice.

Red Geraniums for Pentecost			
☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of			
Donor's na	me:		
Donor's telephone: ()			
Both geraniums will be planted in the Calvary garden.			
Please mail to:	Lynda Kennedy Calvary Episcopal Church 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4388		
	ccks payable to Calvary Episcopal Church and write "Gera- niums" on the memo line.		
Your donation of \$10 for the 2 red geraniums is needed at Calvary by Tuesday, May 14, 2024 so we can place our order with the greenhouse.			
	Thank Voul		



A coming together event for all ages

FINISH LINE PARTY

Food, Fun, & Fascinators! Sunday, May 5, 2024

starts right after the 5 p.m. Marathon Sunday Service

Special Service Times on Marathon Sunday, May 5, 2024

Because the Pittsburgh Marathon route limits access to Calvary on May 5, we will have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist only at **8 a.m.** and **5 p.m.** The 5 p.m. service will be Livestreamed.

The Parish Council is hosting the second annual Finish Line Party **after the 5 p.m. May 5 Marathon Sunday service.** This party will provide a chance for parishioners from all services to meet and celebrate Calvary. Activities for all ages will include:

- *Icebreaker BINGO
- *Selfie photo station with horse racing photo props
- *Make your own fascinator headpiece *instructions and supplies provided*
- *Children's Noodle Race (swimming pool noodles decorated as horses)
- *Hat parade and contest (wear your favorite headwear *creative*, *crazy*, *whatever!*)

We will ask folks to bring a cold appetizer for eight to share as we chat and play. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Parish Hall.

The Calendar

Sunday April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist at 8, 9, and 11 a.m.

10:00 A.M. Children/Youth Formation 10:00 A.M. Priest/Rabbi Class

10:00 A.M. Gospel and Breakfast (GAB)

10:00 A.M. Choir Warm-up

11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist – The Rt. Rev.

Matthew Cowden, preaching

11:00 A.M. Children's Liturgy 12:00 P.M. Coffee Hour

12:15 P.M. Phillips Baptism

Monday April 29, 2024

Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1380

Witness, 1380

6:00 P.M. Evening Prayer 7:00 P.M. Contemplative Prayer

Tuesday April 30, 2024

11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting 7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Wednesday May 1, 2024

Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles

9:00 A.M. Wednesday Workspace 10:00 A.M. ESL Conversation Class

12:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

6:00 P.M. Sacred Ground Level 2 6:00 P.M. Interlude Group 7:00 P.M. East Liberty Valley

Historical Society Lecture

Thursday May 2, 2024

Athanasius at Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373

6:00 P.M. Evening Prayer 6:30 P.M. Mahjong 7:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Friday May 3, 2024

Elisabeth Cruciger, Poet and Hymnographer, 1535

Agape Deadline

5:00 P.M. Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday May 4, 2024

Monnica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

4:00 P.M. Anne Hazlett /

John Witherspoon Wedding

Sunday May 5, 2024

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Pittsburgh Marathon

Please note there will be no 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. services this day!

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist 6:00 P.M. Finish Line Party

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



PRESERVE • SUSTAIN • SHARE

We are very pleased to report that the Capital Campaign currently has **90** pledges and one-time gifts totaling **\$2,918,874** which is 49% of our \$6,000,000 goal. While this is great progress, we need to have many more members participate in the Campaign. In order to facilitate this, we are offering several opportunities to learn about the Campaign and make it easy to pledge.

Please send an email to us at **campaign@calvarypgh.org** if you have any questions or would like to be contacted personally to discuss your participation in the campaign.

The Prayers of the People

For the Anglican Communion, and for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and The Church of Bangladesh.

For the Episcopal Church, and for The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop.

For the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and for The Right Reverend Dr. Ketlen A. Solak, Bishop.

For the parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, especially St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park, the Rev. Robin Jarrell, and the Rev. Deacon Darrell Johnson.

Let us pray for those serving in the armed forces:

Christine DeForest, Tres Mellor, Robert Weaver, Jon Danchik, Chris Claunch, George Rossman, Brian Bongiovi, Lauren Laessig.

For those who are ill or convalescing:

Erica, Elise Power, Henry Albee, Jamie Rogers, Phyllis Ernst, Hattie Mauch, Judith Baskin, ++Michael Curry, Jeff Arberman, Roy Murphy, Joan Rollins, Nancy Hudak, Janet, Josh Butler, Kate, Jean Oh, Andrea, Beth Gallis, Thomas Gallagher, Daniel Perett, Janice Myers, Lucy Duffy, Earl, Marilyn Devereaux, Pat, Judy, Shannon, Emily, Kristen, John Lovelace, Erick Hoffman, Avianna Hoffman, Lori McCormick, Kelly Christner, Kam Murrin, Charlie Auth, Don May, Thomas Moore, Charlie Quillin, Teresa Murrin.

Let us remember those who continue in our prayers:

William Marchl+, Charles Mullen, David Rollins, Charlotta Ross, Mimi Doboy, Holly Best, Marie Houston, Nikki Smith, Fairfax Seay, Paula King-Smith, Phyllis Hickok, Mary Anne Marchl, Betty Howard, Richard Zack, Walter Bowman, Stan Schoen, Doreen Putnam, Jean Carver, Diana Jannetta.

Let us pray for those who have been commended to our prayers:

Betty Shandor, Marjorie Wells, Linda Augustine, Sang Oh, Dorothy Tague, Tom Vig, Heidi Murrin, Joachim Bielert, Marilyn Corstange, Gary McCann, Dave Bruton, Alyson Holt, Debra Teton, Patricia, Carol Ann R., Jennifer S., Laura B., Patricia M., Marian G., Charles, Jeremiah McClung, Dave Arlotti, Mike, Ed Cohen, Carol, Hayden, Brian, Meredith G., Janie Leighton, Devlin Cato, Rebecca Rogovin, John, Nancy, Steve, Ernie, Betsy Mastaglio, Jason Durand, Barbara G., Paul Thompson, Lou and Nancy M., Cathie Keenan, Mary Kay D., Marsha Dilts, Eileen Simmons, Al Churley, Barbara, Judy, Mark Steinberg, Michael C., Anthony, Helene Burke, Walter Simmons, Alex, Aster, Gail, Megan and Mike and family, Judy, Jill W. and children, Katherine Plank, Marie Churley, April DeLucia, Stefania, Edward, Kathleen, Joe Hardy, Cathy Rielly-Goddard, Avi and family, Lisa, Dena Gallagher and family, Frankie Schell, Mary G., Paul Marvy family, Arnold Shurkin, Linda Almasy-Hohmann, David Hohmann, Marsha McElwain, Harry DeLuce, Chris Chaney, Kristen, Annette Bowen, Stefan, Denise Wolff Oetinger, John Rinozzi, Vincent Esposito, Katy Reeder, Allison, Rita Rose, Kevin Ayala, John Pranikoff, Dawn Miller, Audrey, Denise Taylor, Janet.

For people throughout the world living with HIV and AIDS.

For caregivers.

We give thanks for the marriage of Kelly Corrigan and Daniel Pieratt.

We give thanks for the baptism of Sofia Ann Mirizio and Giovanni Andrew LaScola.

For those who have died: Lee O'Nan, James Knight, Andrea Redway (Vanessa Sterling's friend).

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ada McCrea Hawkins.

Madeline Sutton, by the Vojta family.

[To add or remove names from the Prayer List, please contact Kim Pieratt at the church office: 412.661.0120, ext. 111; kpieratt@calvarypgh.org]

Participants in Today's Services

8 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9 a.m. - The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Margaret Baker

11 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

VergerSarah Wilson

AcolytesSarah Atwood, Adella Boy, Thomas Koehler

Chalice Bearers Adam Bailey, George Davis, Fred Roth

Ushers Jeffrey Hovis, Dan Prevade, Matthew Lancaster

Flower DeliveryBonnie Weiss, Robin Kamin

The Bookstore at Calvary

Stop by the Bookstore to see our large selection of newly arrived greeting cards as well as blank cards for you to write your own heartfelt message to someone you miss, you love, who helped you, or you are thinking of. In addition, an assortment of cards including blank, birthday, and get well are available in variety packets of five cards for only \$1! At this price, why wouldn't you send a card or two? The impact can be immeasurable when someone receives a card.

The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® along with touch-free payments are accepted.

The Calvary Creation Care Committee

You are invited to a work day with Grounded Strategies on Saturday, May 4 at 400 Sherwood Road, Wilkinsburg, 15221, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (lunch included). Activities include: Clean and stage outdoor spaces, Light fence line clean up, Minor outdoor prep items. Supplies will be included, but bring your outdoor tools if you like! Gloves, shovels, trowels, all the good stuff. This event is organized by Grounded Strategies, a Pittsburgh nonprofit that cleans up vacant lots and updates community spaces in the community. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Parish Hall.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

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.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [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 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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!"
- 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.

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

A Reading from the First Letter of John [4:7-21]

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [15:1-8]

Response before the Gospel: 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."

Response after the Gospel: Praise to you, Lord Christ.