

Holy Trinity Longlevens

Readings and Prayers

2nd May 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

All if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

The Word of God

Acts of the Apostles 8.26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

John 15.1-8

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.'

Response

Blessed are the peacemakers,
All for they will called children of God.

Prayers

We join together in prayer for:

- † our church family in Longlevens
- † all those standing for local government next week
- † all those working in frontline care, especially ambulance crews, carers, nurses and doctors
- † the people of India and other nations still badly affected by the pandemic

The Collect of the day

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ give us his peace.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

Hymn

God is love: his the care,
tending each, ev'rywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
that mankind might know him!

Sing aloud, loud, loud!

Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth!

God is beauty! Praise him!

None can see God above;
we can share life and love;
thus may we Godward move,
seek him in creation,
holding ev'ry nation:

Jesus lived on the earth:
hope and life brought to birth,
and affirmed human worth;
for he came to save us
by the truth he gave us:

To our Lord praise we sing,
light and life, friend and king,
coming down love to bring,
pattern for our duty,
showing God in beauty:

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) alt.
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Based on Prayer During the Day from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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