



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

p. 173

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Acts 7:55–60

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1001

Commentary: Stephen was a Hellenistic Jew who was brought before the Sanhedrin on a charge of slandering Moses and God. In his speech before the ruling council, Stephen did not present a personal defense; instead, he defended the new way of worship that Jesus taught and which His followers embraced. Stephen's speech infuriated the members of the Sanhedrin, who were ready to kill him. But Stephen's attention was elsewhere; he beheld a vision of the throne room in heaven, with Jesus standing at the right hand of God. The religious leaders, in their outrage, began stoning Stephen, and Saul of Tarsus was there, giving his approval. Stephen died as Jesus did, offering prayers for his executioners.

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 Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: John 14:1–14

NRSV, p. 984

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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The Peace

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Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer II

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Sanctus

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The Lord’s Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers available upon request

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

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The Blessing

Celebrant

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 you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Dr. Donald Brock Koonce, Mary Bellamy Koonce, Michael Corbett Stovall, Jr.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ admin@stjamesp.org



@stjamesp



@stjamesparish

stjamesp.org