

Gospel reading: John 15.1-8

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Saviour
Jesus Christ according to John.*

People: **Glory to you O Lord.**

'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.

Celebrant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Our service continues on the sheet headed:
"A Liturgy for Extraordinary Time", page 5**

Prayer after Communion

**All: Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever. Amen**

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St. Vincent's Anglican Church, Algarve

part of the Church of England, Diocese in Europe and the Anglican Communion

Weekly Sheet

Sunday 2 May 2021

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

A warm welcome to our service

**10.30am Eucharist at St Luke's, Palhagueira
and online at**

<https://www.facebook.com/stvincentsalgarve>

[http://www.stvincentsalgarve.org/
livestream.html](http://www.stvincentsalgarve.org/livestream.html)

About St. Vincent's

St. Vincent's consists of three congregations which serve the whole of the Algarve from Luz in the west to Boliqueime in the centre to Palhagueira in the east. We are welcoming and affirming church. You don't have to be a member of the Church of England to worship with us – all are welcome!

About our Liturgy

The church has had many times in its history to respond, theologically, practically, and pastorally, to pandemics, from the Black Plague in the XIV century to the Yellow Fever outbreak in Memphis in 1878 to the Flu epidemic of 1918. The church has offered saints who have given their lives to help the poor, universities to study disease and train doctors, and prayer – lots and lots of prayer!

Our Liturgy for Extraordinary Time is just a part of our effort to maintain a safe and responsive worship community. We expect our liturgy to evolve and develop as the COVID pandemic continues. If you have thoughts, questions, or suggestions, we want to hear from you! Do share ideas with Fr. Reid or your wardens.

**Today's service commences on the sheet headed:
"A Liturgy for Extraordinary Time"**

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

First reading: Acts 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.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*
 All: **Thanks be to God**

- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; ♦
 I will perform my vows
 in the presence of those that fear you.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; ♦
 those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
 their hearts shall live for ever.
- 27 All the ends of the earth
 shall remember and turn to the Lord, ♦
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's ♦
 and he rules over the nations.
- 29 How can those who sleep in the earth
 bow down in worship, ♦
 or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
- 30 He has saved my life for himself;
 my descendants shall serve him; ♦
 this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
- 31 They shall come and make known his salvation,
 to a people yet unborn, ♦
 declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading: 1 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 Saviour 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 judgement, 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: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*
 All: **Thanks be to God**