

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Heroes' Sunday  
May 17, 2026**

**The Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw  
**Guest Speaker:** Michael R. Resnick, Esq. Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Prisons  
**Vergers:** Eugene Golson  
**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Chancel Choir

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**Order of Service**

**The Prelude**

St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The Opening Hymn- "Lift High the Cross"**

**The Hymnal 1982 #473**

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred Name.**

**1) Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. [Refrain]**

**2) Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seat of him who died. [Refrain]**

**3) O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]**

**4) So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]**

**A Word of Welcome**

The Celebrant

**The Opening Salutation**

**The Celebrant:** Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

**The People:** "He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!"

**The Collect for Purity**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP)355

**The Celebrant:** 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**

**The Gloria in excelsis (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and The People**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **AMEN****

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant:** Let us pray

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place

where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN**

**The First Reading: Acts 1:6-14**

John Stanford, First Deputy Commissioner, Field Operations,  
Philadelphia Police Department

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36**

Musu Doe, Registered Nurse

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*

**let those who hate him flee before him.**

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*

**as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*

**YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**

Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*

**God in his holy habitation!**

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*

**but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people, \*

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*

**you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it; \*

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
**sing praises to the Lord.**

He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God; \*  
**his majesty is over Israel;**  
**his strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!**  
**Blessed be God!**

**The Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Carl Randolph, First Deputy Commissioner,  
Philadelphia Fire Department

**A Reading from the First Book of Peter.**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. AMEN

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual Hymn- "We've Come This Far By Faith" Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #208 (vv. 1-2)**

**Refrain: We've come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord**

**Trusting in His holy word, He's never failed me yet.**

**O can't turn around; we've come this far by faith.**

**1) Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life.**  
**He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife'**  
**That's why we've [Refrain]**

**2) Just the other day I heard someone say**  
**He didn't believe in God's word;**  
**But I can truly say that God had made a way**  
**And He never failed me yet.**  
**That's why we've [Refrain]**

**The Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11**

Fr. Shaw

**The Priest:** The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**The People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

**The Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily Hymn- We've Come This Far By Faith"**

**LEVAS #208 (vv. 1-2)**

**Refrain: We've come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord**

**Trusting in His holy word, He's never failed me yet.**

**O can't turn around; we've come this far by faith.**

**1) Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life.  
He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife'  
That's why we've [Refrain]**

**2) Just the other day I heard someone say  
He didn't believe in God's word;  
But I can truly say that God had made a way  
And He never failed me yet.  
That's why we've [Refrain]**

**The Message**

Michael R. Resnick, Esq., Commissioner  
Philadelphia Department of Prisons  
The Celebrant

**The Call to Christian Discipleship**

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN**

**The Prayers of the People**

Edward Geiger, Former State Trooper, Pennsylvania State Police

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

We pray for all first responders, active and retired, and their families;

**That they may be safe in their service and secure in your protection.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Protect those who seek to protect others;

**May they find strength in your mercy and grace.**

We pray for all first responders—those who bind up the wounded, rescue the helpless, and protect those in harm's way, choosing to stand in the breach and lead others to safety;

**That they may be preserved in safety themselves, and upheld by your mercy, grace, and love.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**The Concluding Collect**

The Celebrant

**The Confession**

**BCP 360**

**The Celebrant:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Silence is kept)

**The Celebrant and The People:**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus**

**Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN**

**The Absolution**

The 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**

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

**The People:** **And also with you.**

**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Offertory Selection and Offering**

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**The Offertory Selection**

St. Thomas Chancel Choir

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** **And also with you.**

**The Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**The People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**The Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**The People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and the People:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Celebrant:** Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**The Memorial Acclamation (Sung)**

**Jesus Christ has died.**

**Jesus Christ is risen.**

**Jesus Christ will come again.**

**The Celebrant:** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is your, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN**

**The Lord's Prayer (Sung)**

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

**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, forever and ever. AMEN**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Celebrant:** Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

**The People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

**The Agnus Dei (Sung)**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Grant us thy peace.

**The Prayer of Humble Access**

**Let us pray:** We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **AMEN**

**The Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Distribution of Communion

### The Post-Communion Prayer

#### The Celebrant and the People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN

### Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

**The Celebrant:** In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**The People:** We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

### The Announcements

#### Presentations

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden  
R. Seth Williams, Prison Chaplain  
Albert Dandridge, Jr. Esq.  
Fr. Shaw

### A Special Blessing for First Responders

### The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

#### The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

### The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

### The Closing Hymn- "Stand By Me"

LEVAS # 200

1) When the storms of life are raging, stand by me, stand by me.

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me, stand by me.

When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea;

Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me, stand by me.

2) In the midst of tribulations, stand by me, stand by me.

In the midst of tribulations, stand by me, stand by me.

When the hosts of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,

Thou who never lost a battle, stand by me, stand by me.

3) In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me, stand by me.

In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me, stand by me.

When I do the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,

Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me, stand by me.

4) In the midst of persecution, stand by me, stand by me.

In the midst of persecution, stand by me, stand by me.

When my foes in battle array under take to stop my way,

Thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me, stand by me.

5) When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.

When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.

When my life becomes a burden, and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,

O thou "Lilly of the Valley." stand by me.

### The Dismissal

ALL are welcome to attend the reception after Mass in Anderson Hall, sponsored by Edwin Santana and the AECST Men's Ministry and Fellowship.