

Readings today:

Acts 8: 26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?'^[b] ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.

Next week's readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter:
Acts 10: 44-end and John 15: 9-17

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:

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.

Amen

2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 Downing Street has announced that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the nomination of The Venerable Dr Jane Steen, currently Archdeacon of Southwark, to be the next Bishop of Lynn.

The first female bishop in Norfolk and Waveney, Dr Steen will also be the first suffragan bishop to have been consecrated in Norwich Cathedral for over 100 years, if not ever. This will take place on Wednesday 23 June. Suffragan bishops are usually consecrated in London and York, but this has been altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jane comes to the Diocese of Norwich after over 20 years of ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. Since 2013, she has been the Archdeacon of Southwark and was previously Canon Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral and Director of Ministerial Education. She is married to Pip and enjoys walking, reading and gardening on a small scale. Jane and Pip are thrilled to be coming to the Diocese of Norwich and look forward to ministry here.

Jane said:

"I am honoured and delighted to have been called to be the next Bishop of Lynn and I am looking forward to the new ministry to which God and the Church have called me. It will be a privilege to minister with the clergy and laity of the Lynn archdeaconry and to serve the wider life of north and west Norfolk.

"I feel very blessed to be calling this area home after several lovely holidays, and I will enjoy getting to know people and places better. I will carry with me many happy memories of the Diocese of Southwark and especially from eight years of ministering in the Southwark Archdeaconry."

The funeral of Revd Alan Elkins will take place on Tuesday at 2pm. Please continue to hold Joy and all their family and friends in your prayers this week. Details of how to donate in memory of Alan will follow next week.

Please also remember in your prayers:

- Bishops Graham (Norwich) and Alan (Thetford);
- Christians of the Orthodox tradition celebrating Easter: it is the day of resurrection! Let us be illumined for the feast! Pascha!
- The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East.
- The Creakes Benefice: Rector Fr Clive Wylie and Reader Peter Gray.
- those who live and work in Mission Lane, Barbers Lane, Victoria Lane, Heath Way, Heath Lane,
- the work of the World Red Cross;
- those who are unwell including: Mary, Ken, Joyce, David, Jane, Margaret Sewell, Ray and Debbie;
- the families of the late Revd Alan Elkins and Pam Thomas.