



Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM and 9:30 AM

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Episcopal Church

April 28, 2024

Families with preschoolers or elementary-aged children: A "Pew Buddy" (older child or adult) may offer your child a Children's Bulletin and other materials, or invite them to help with the service in some way that may be fun for them. The more children are actively engaged in worship, the more they feel a part of the community.

Please refrain from applause during worship, but feel free to share your appreciation with our worship leaders after the service if you are so moved!

Prelude

God is love: let heaven adore him

Setting by Benjamin Culli

All stand as able at the ringing of the bell.

**Processional Hymn (9:30 AM)
#379, The Hymnal 1982**

God is love: let heaven adore him

Words: Timothy Rees
Music: Abbot's Leigh

1 God is Love, let heaven adore him;
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is Love, eternal Love.

3 God is Love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

2 God is Love; and Love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace:
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

Opening Acclamation

p. 355 Book of Common Prayer

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia!

Officiant

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.**

Gloria in excelsis

S-278, The Hymnal 1982 (spoken at 7:45 AM; sung at 9:30 AM)

Setting by William Mathias

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward 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 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 *(read in unison)*

p. 612, Book of Common Prayer

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson: A reading from the First Letter of John

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 Savior 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 judgment, 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 The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able for

The Sequence Hymn (9:30 AM)
#178, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1-3

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord

Words: Donald Fishel
Music: Alleluia No. 1

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give Praise to his Name.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. **[Refrain]**

3 We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever. **[Refrain]**

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. **[Refrain]**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence hymn continued

4 Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give Praise to his Name.

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Sermon

Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.

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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Silence

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts and help us to abide in you always.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the congregation of St. John's: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. For the ministry of St. John's Creation Care & Repair Team. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially, **Carol, Elizabeth, Katharine, Judy, Will, Beth, Mark, Will, Gabrielle, Mimi, Ina, Joan, Clay, Kathy, JJ, Kelsey, George, Rex, Charles, Kathy, Lois, John, Greg, David, Kathleen, Charlie, Bill, Terrence, Don,** and all others we name to you now...*(the congregation may add prayers, spoken or in silence).*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for those in our parish celebrating birthdays this week: Greg Kastendike, Mimi O'Donnell, Jane Lambert, Emma Renfrow, Kevin O'Donnell, Erik Larsen, Victoria Polizio, Eric Portante, and Taylen Lewis.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we remember our beloved who have died, especially Janet Monteith... *(the congregation may add prayers, spoken or in silence).*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Silence

Celebrant

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence)*

ALL Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

Please be seated

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

The Altar Flowers are given today by Julie Arthur in honor of all who created the pollinator garden at St. John's and all who tend the garden.

Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

I Am the Vine

Text based on John 15: 5-13/Music by Allen Pote

Cantate

Jane Lambert, soprano soloist
 Cathy Brittingham, flautist

*I am the vine and you are the branches, abide in me and I will abide in you.
 Then you will bear much fruit for without me you can do nothing,
 Abide in me and I will abide in you.*

*As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Go then and love one another.
 Keep this commandment, for no greater love have you,
 Than to lay down your life for your friends.*

*I am the vine and you are the branches, abide in me and I will abide in you.
 Love one another as I have loved you.
 I am the vine, You are the branches,
 Go then and bear much fruit, Go abide in my love.*

Please stand as able

The Doxology

(7:45 am—spoken)

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs...
...to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus— Holy, holy, holy (7:45 AM spoken; 9:30 AM sung)
S-128 (front of The Hymnal 1982)

Setting by William Mathias

**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 People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit...
...Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

All We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...

...Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

**All 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

All stand as able

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

At 7:45 AM, spoken

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

At 9:30 AM, sung

S-155 (front of Hymnal 1982)

Christ our Passover

Setting by Gerald R. Neal

Fraction Anthem

Christ Our Passover

Hymnal S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Communion of the People

(please sanitize your hands before coming forward)

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher. At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

Communion Hymn (9:30 AM) #50, Lift Every Voice and Sing

- 1 The angel said to Philip:
"Go to a desert place."
And there he found an Ethiope,
the treasurer to Candace,
Who sat within his chariot
with Holy Writ in hand.
Asked Philip: "Can you, brother,
the Prophet understand?"
- 2 The Ethiope responded:
"Lead me and be my guide."
Explain the scripture to me;
"Here, sit down at my side."
Then Philip exegeted
Isaiah's Holy word.
And preached unto the Ethiope
that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- 3 They traveled in the chariot,
And came upon a brook;
The Ethiope, excited
then looked up from his book.
"See Philip, here is water,"
He said, and stopped his steed!
"What can now," he implored him,
"My baptism impede?"

The angel said to Philip

Words: Harold T. Lewis
Music: Nyland, Finnish Folk Melody;
adapt. David Evans (1874-1948)

- 4 Saint Phillip told the Ethiope:
"Believe with all your heart;
And God the Holy Spirit
Will His own gift impart."
"I do believe that Jesus
Is God's true, only son."
And with these words, the treasurer
A greater treasure won.
- 5 O Philip, the evangelist
You brought to Afric's seed
The Gospel of our Savior
In thought, and word and deed,
O may we share Thy fervor
And press on towards the prize;
And heed our Lord's commission
To teach, preach and baptize.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion (For those worshipping with us remotely at 9:30 AM)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

The Postcommunion Prayer (for those who have shared in Communion in person)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

The Celebrant blesses the People.

(9:30 AM) All children here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the following hymn. The children will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.

The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)
#512, The Hymnal 1982

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

Words: Simon Browne
Music: Mendon

1 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide;
o'er every thought and step preside.

3 Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.

2 The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.

4 Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.

The Dismissal

Children of the Parish Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude in the Classic Style

Music by Gordon Young

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