

“Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!”



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude

Opening Hymn (*Please stand as able*)

Please see page 8

#47 | *“On This Day, the First of Days”*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.*

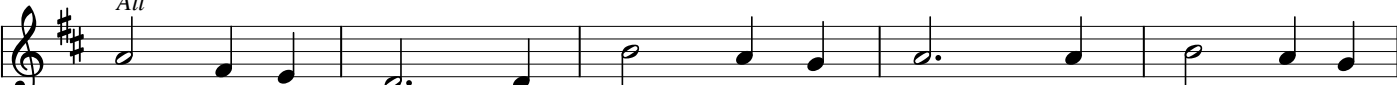
Canticle of Praise: *This Is the Feast*

Celebrant




This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1. Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2. Sing with all the people of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glor - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

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, forever and ever.

People ***Amen.***

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Acts:

Introduction to the First Reading

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip proclaims the gospel of Christ to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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 of the Day

Psalm 22:24-30



Make known the saving deeds that God has done.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. all who go down to the dust fall before him. [ANT.] The poor shall eat and be satisfied, My soul shall live for him; and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: my descendants shall serve him; "May your heart live for ever!" [ANT.] they shall be known as the LORD's for ever. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn They shall come and make known to the LORD, to a people yet unborn and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. the saving deeds that he has done. [ANT.] For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations. [ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John:

Introduction to the Second Reading

We love God and others because God has first loved us. The essence of God is love. God's indwelling in Christians is manifested in love for one another.

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.

Sequence Hymn (Please stand as able) - Please see page 9

#650 | "TIn Christ There Is No East or West"

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel (The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.)

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

*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

The Leader and People pray responsively.

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.

Christ has gathered us as branches of the true vine. Let us offer prayers to God who does for us whatever we ask.

For the whole world and all the churches of God,

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For this holy gathering, and for our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all the baptized whose faces shine with the light of Christ.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Kevin our Bishop, for our priest, Tom, for all who minister and all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For those who suffer and those who mourn; stir up in us a spirit of grace and generosity, that we may give freely to those in need.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all places in strife and unrest, that you may inspire all your people to seek a just peace and that we may hear the voices of those who are unheard.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all those requiring ongoing care and for all those in danger and need: those who are sick or suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, those who are hungry, homeless, or oppressed.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the dying and the dead, we pray.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering our most glorious and Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

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

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace to love our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

People **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.**

The Absolution

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 *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:
The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR
Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

Offertory Sentence

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung.
Please stand as able)*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;
Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hos - san - na in the High-est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you 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 yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

People *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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

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.

*You can commune host only, dip the host in the intinction chalice, or drink from the common cup.
Gluten free hosts are available, please ask the priest.*

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or be seated)

Celebrant Let us pray.

People *We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.*

(Please stand as able)

Benediction

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn *(Please stand as able)*

Please see page 11

#376 | "Joyful, Joyful"

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Christ.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

We are grateful to Bonnie Kuhn for serving as our organist today!

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector

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Linda Tuttle, Eucharistic Minister

Tom Sombar, Acolyte

Anthony Escobar, Lay Reader

Scott Kresge, Minister of Music & Minister of Technology

Robert Freeman, Cantor

Jim Mulholland, Usher

Sharon Lamando & Elizabeth Scheer, Fellowship Hosts

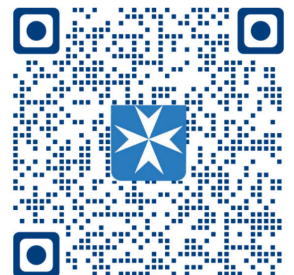
Elizabeth Scheer, Jim Mulholland, Susan Mattia, Technology Ministry

Doris Schirmer, Jean Skocypiec & Carole Palmer, Altar Guild

This Week at St. John the Baptist

Wednesday - Bible Study 2 pm. & Choir Practice 5 p.m. 7

Share Pictures & Videos of
Parish Life using this QR Code
with Your Smart Phone Camera.



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Sunday

1 On this day, the first of days, God the Fa - ther's Name we praise,
 2 On this day the e - ter - nal Son o - ver death his tri - umph won;
 3 Ma - ker, who didst fa - shion me im - age of thy - self to be,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, may I be dead and bur - ied here with thee;
 5 Thou, who dost all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;

1 who, cre - a - tion's Lord and spring, did the world from dark - ness bring.
 2 on this day the Spi - rit came with his gifts of liv - ing flame.
 3 fill me with thy love di - vine, let my ev - ery thought be thine.
 4 and, by love in - flamed, a - rise un - to thee a sac - ri - fice.
 5 best of gifts, thy - self be - stow; make me burn thy love to know.

6 God, the blessed Three in One,
 dwell within my heart alone;
 thou dost give thyself to me:
 help me give myself to thee.

Words: Latin; tr. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.
 Music: *Gott sei Dank*, melody from *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704;
 adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

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Sequence Hymn

"In Christ There is No East or West"

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

[H] 650

In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.



Holy Eucharist

304

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see and praise him here.
 5 in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt.

Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

CM

Praise to God

376

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

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