

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
7 May 2023 Year A
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude Schmucke dich, O liebe Seele J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

***Processional Hymn** Here vouchsafe to all thy servants (*Westminster Abbey*) **Hymnal #518**

***Opening Acclamation** **BCP 355**

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria** **Hymnal #S-278**

The Collect of the Day

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.*

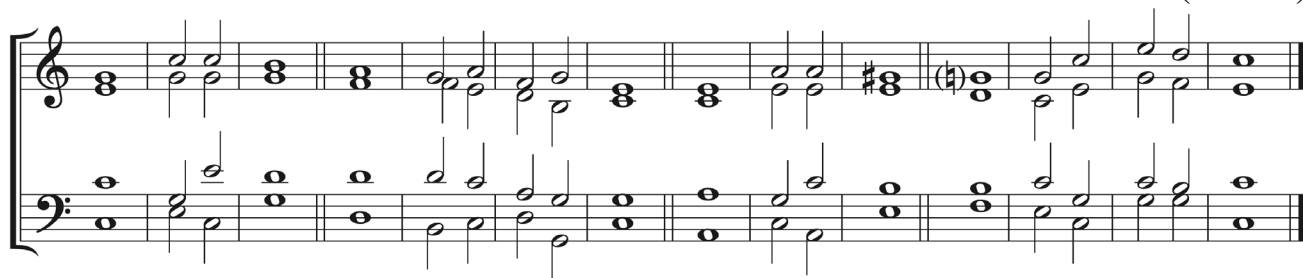
The First Lesson **Acts 7:55–60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

T. A. Walmisley
(1814–56)



- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be | put to | shame; *
deliver me | in your | righteous- |
ness.
- 2 Incline your | ear to | me; *
make | haste | to de- | liver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep
me safe,
for you are my crag | and my |
stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, | lead
me | and guide | me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have
secretly | set for | me, *
- for you | are my | tower of |
strength.
- 5 Into your hands I com | mend my |
spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O | LORD, O | God of | truth.
- 15 My times are | in your | hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my
enemies,
and from | those who | perse- |
cute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine u- | pon
your | servant, *
and in your | loving- | kindness |
save me.

The Epistle Reading

Acts 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life (*The Call*)

Hymnal #487

***The Gospel Reading**

John 1:1–14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

***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**

Let us call upon God to hear our prayers and to grant us those things that are in accord with the divine will, responding, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

+ For Christians who are imprisoned and persecuted for their faith that, like Stephen, they may follow the light that casts out all fear; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may do the works that Jesus revealed in his ministry, the healing of the sick, the raising up of the lowly, the giving of sight to the blind, and the blessing of the poor and the grieving; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For those who are spiritually lost, or who question their faith, or whose souls are wrapped in the shadows of doubt, that they may share their misgivings with Jesus, who gently unfolds the truth and reveals a way; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That the Church, the community of the baptized, may vigorously proclaim the alleluias of Easter, revealing the light of Christ, whose victory over death breaks the chains of darkness and despair; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for the beauty that is set before our eyes, and for the mysteries yet unseen, that we may honor the expansiveness of creation and be guardians of its splendor; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ In thanksgiving for missionaries throughout the world, who reveal God's Word in challenging times and places; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+That the Lord may comfort those in the waning days of life, and bring to life eternal those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

As a chosen people who share the royal priesthood of Christ, let us add to these petitions.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for

Joan	Strater	Elizabeth	Ruth	Judy	Terry
Richard	Penny	Katie	Frank	Jeff	Nathan
Shirley	Peter	Theodore	Jack	Daniel	Carole
Wes	Dave	Carol	Julianne	Lynne	Carrie
Charles	Cece	Lorraine	Faicia	John	
Dick	Deb	Edith	Eleanor	Monica	
Rebecca	Allison	Kathryn	Bob	John	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Francis Sansom, Karl Shell

Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.*

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 remain in your pew. Wave!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem Lord, thou hast told us

Arnold Bax (1883–1953)

Lord, thou hast told us that there be
Two dwellings which belong to thee,
And those two, that's the wonder,
Are far asunder.

The one the highest heaven is,
The mansions of eternal bliss;
The other's the contrite
And humble sprite

Though heaven be high, the gate is low,

And he that comes in there must bow;
The lofty looks shall ne'er
Have entrance there.

O God! Since thou delight'st to rest
Within the humble contrite breast,
First make me so to be,
Then dwell with me

***Presentation Hymn** O Love of God (*Dunedin*)

Hymnal #455

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language Prayer A

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 our thanks and praise.

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

Holy, holy, holy (*Sanctus*)

Hymnal #S-128

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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, Jesus 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ.

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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem **Lamb of God** (*Agnus Dei*)

Hymnal #S-165

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table.

Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.

You may either intinct your wafer in the small chalice, or you may drink from the larger common chalice after consuming the wafer. Please replace your mask after receiving the sacrament.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music Jesus Christ our Lord (*St James*)

Hymnal #457

Post Communion Prayer

*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.*

Blessing

***Recessional** O praise ye the Lord! (*Loudale Dominum*)

Hymnal #432

Dismissal

Postlude Nun danket alle Gott (from Cantata 79)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Acolyte: Ian Lundberg

Liturgical Ministers: Ian Lundberg, Sara VanLooy, Margaret Johnson

Virtual Vergers: Sara VanLooy, Amber Massa

St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!

May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.

LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from **One License** with license # **A – 724223**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

7 May 2023

Hymns

Christ is made the sure foundation

Hymnal # 518

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted lovingkindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

4 Here vouch safe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Hymnal #487

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

O Love of God, how strong and true

Hymnal #455

1 O Love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.

2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.

3 We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.

4 We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

Thou art the Way, to Thee alone

Hymnal # 457

1 Thou art the Way, to thee alone
from sin and death we flee;
and all who would the Father seek,
must seek him, Lord, by thee.

2 Thou art the Truth, thy word alone
true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind
and purify the heart.

3 Thou art the Life, the rending tomb
proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee
nor death nor hell shall harm.

4 Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height
Hymnal # 432

1 Thou art the Way, to thee alone
from sin and death we flee;
and all who would the Father seek,
must seek him, Lord, by thee.

2 Thou art the Truth, thy word alone
true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind
and purify the heart.

3 Thou art the Life, the rending tomb
proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee
nor death nor hell shall harm.

4 Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.



St. John's Church
210 North Cayuga Street
Ithaca, NY
(607)-273-6532
www.stjohnsithaca.org
Office email: office@stjohnsithaca.org
"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church
Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector

Cora Yao, Senior Warden
Parish Administrator, Cathy Wagner
Director of Music/Organist, Dr. Anna Stepler

Gwen Freeman, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

Please Join Us:

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Parish Hall following the service. Please continue to wear your mask when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Morning Prayer Monday – Thursday at 9:30 on Facebook and YouTube.

Forward Day by Day for **May, June, and July** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

Flowers: If you wish to give Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).