

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
28 April 2024 Year B
10:30 AM

* Indicates please stand

Prelude *Largo e spiccato* from Concerto in D minor, BWV 596
Antonio Vivaldi (1478–1741), arr. J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

***Processional Hymn** On this day, the first of days (*Gott sei Dank*) **Hymnal #47**

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

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria** **Hymnal #S-279**

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24–30

Deus, Deus meus

- 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 Epistle Reading

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Sequence** Thou art the Way, to thee alone (*St. James*)

Hymnal #457 vv. 1–2

***The Gospel Reading**

John 25:1–8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

***Sequence** Thou art the Way, to thee alone (*St. James*)

Hymnal #457 vv 3–4

The Sermon

The Rev. Kit Tobin

***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**

May God, who loves us, open our lips that we may praise him, responding to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

+ That we may give ourselves to the study of holy scripture and the traditions of our faith, growing deeper in knowledge and understanding, gaining confidence in the proclamation of hope to those who hunger for spiritual food; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That we may continually seek the love of Christ, through whom we are able to love one another; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For Michael our Presiding Bishop, DeDe, Bishop of our diocese, and for all priests and deacons, that we may honor God's call to them and seek their counsel for spiritual direction and pastoral care; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ For the forgiveness of our sins, those times when anger has subsumed love, and stubbornness broken bonds of affection, that we may call upon the charity of the Lord to lead us into the heart of reconciliation; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

+ That sacrificing personal gain to discover enduring peace may be a priority of governments and peoples everywhere; let us pray to the Lord.

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.

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all the leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world. For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others; hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

God of peace and justice, hear our prayers. Amen

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

Joan	Linda	Edith	Chris	Jeff	Russell
Charles	Jim	Kathryn	Carole	Mary Beth	Ruth
Wes	Gerald	Sarah	Sandy	Jack	Dick
Virginia	Cece	Avery	Amelia	Julianne	
Shirley	Theodore	Nathan	Michael	Christina	
Richard	Lorraine	Jane	Susan	Chavon	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Karen Lewis, Jeff Bowen, Kang Meng

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 *Sicut Cervus*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525/6–94)

***Presentation Hymn** What wonderful love is this (*Wonderous love*)

Hymnal #439

*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-130

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-164

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 or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

Bread of Heaven, on thee we feed (*Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt*)

Hymnal #323

Where charity and love prevail (*Cheshire*)

Hymnal #581

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** We sing the praise of him who died (*Breslau*)

Hymnal #471

Dismissal

Postlude Three Variations on “Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend” (*Lord Jesus Christ, turn to us*)
Georg Böhm (1661–1733)

Crucifer: Ian Lundberg

Liturgical Ministers: Muriel Everhart, Jerome Fung, Margaret Johnson

Virtual Vergers Michael Roman, John Jackson, Amber Massa

This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.

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 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE NARTHEX**

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HYMNS

On this day, the first of days (*Gott sei Dank*) Hymnal #47

1 On this day, the first of days,
God the Father's Name we praise,
who, creation's Lord and spring,
did the world from darkness bring.

2 On this day the eternal Son
over death his triumph won;
on this day the Spirit came
with his gifts of living flame.

3 Maker, who didst fashion me
image of thyself to be,
fill me with thy love divine,
let my every thought be thine.

4 Holy Jesus, may I be
dead and buried here with thee;
and, by love inflamed, arise
unto thee a sacrifice.

5 Thou, who dost all gifts impart,
shine, blest Spirit, in my heart;
best of gifts, thyself bestow;
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:
may I give myself to thee.

Thou art the Way, to thee alone (*St. James*) 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.

What wondrous love is this (*Wonderous Love*) Hymnal #439

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord
of bliss
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will
sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing!

3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll
sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful
be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed (*Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt*) Hymnal #323

1 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy Flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living Bread;
day by day with strength supplied,
through the life of him who died.

2 Vine of heaven, thy Blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus, may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.

Where charity and love prevail (*Cheshire*)

Hymnal #581

1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
Be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
As members of his body joined,
we are in Him made one.

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We sing the praise of him who died (*Breslau*)

Hymnal #471

1 We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope let sin deride;
for this we count the world but loss.

2 Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, God is love:
he bears our sins upon the tree:
he brings us mercy from above.

3 The cross: it takes our guilt away,
and holds the fainting spirit up;
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,
and sweetens every bitter cup.

4 It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes its terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light.

5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angel's theme in heaven above.



St. John's Church
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"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church
Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

Rector

Beverly Way, Senior Warden
Parish Administrator
Elisabeth Wang, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

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. Masks are optional when you are not actively eating or drinking.

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

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