

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Episcopal)
CARING COMMUNITY - ENGAGING OUTREACH - COMPELLING WORSHIP



Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:00am

Clergy and Staff

Rector: The Rev. Eleanor A. Terry
Deacon: The Rev. Ken Schmidt
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music: Ellen F. Oak
Church Administrator: Laura Brock

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THE PREPARATION

ORGAN PRELUDE *Siciliano* by John Stanley (1713-1786)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 455 (*Blue Hymnal*) **O Love of God**

WELCOME

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The priest addresses the people.

In mercy and might God has freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Priest: Let us pray,

Almighty God, we praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

In Jesus the Lord

Words: Traditional

Music: Ellen Oak

All sing the refrain. Choir sings the verses as the congregation is sprinkled with baptismal waters.

Refrain:

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the refrain: "In Je - sus the Lord, from death to new life, by wa - ter and the word,". The second staff contains the melody for the verses: "we are the ris - en bo - dy of Christ, Al - le - lu - ia!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

Verses sung by choir:

1. I saw water flowing from the temple, Alleluia!
It brought God's life and salvation, Alleluia!
And all the people sang joyfully, Alleluia!

Refrain

2. The angel showed me the river of the water of life, Alleluia!
Flowing from the throne of God and from the Lamb, Alleluia!
Freely given to all who thirst, Alleluia!

Refrain

3. Springs of water, bless the Lord, Alleluia!
Running fountains and rushing streams, Alleluia!
Crashing waves and all oceans, Alleluia!

Refrain

PEACE

Priest Refreshed and renewed with the waters of baptism, let us greet one another. The peace of the risen Christ be with you always

People **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Priest Let us pray together.

All **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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:24-30

We will sing the psalm side to side by verse on one note, beginning with the piano side.

24 My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship you.

**25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek you shall praise you: ***
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

27 For yours is the royal power, O God; *
you rule over the nations.

28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down
in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.

**29 My soul shall live for you;
my descendants shall serve you; ***
they shall be known as yours for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that you have done.

St. Helena Psalter

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

A Reading from first Letter of John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much,

we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the refrain. Choir sings the verse that follows, and all sing the refrain again.

Refrain:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verse: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Words: Psalm 118

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

All sing Alleluia, as above.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

In the silences which follow, please offer your prayers. Let us pray,

We give you thanks for those who offer their best as leaders of your people—for our bishops, priests, and deacons. Pray for those who carry out your mission under their leadership.

Pray for God's church.

Silence.

We offer our prayers for the leaders of our nation—for our president, our governor, Congress, and the courts of this land. Give them courage and wisdom and a heart for justice.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

We pray for mercy for those who suffer from hunger, in poverty, in the wake of violent storms, after earthquakes. Sustain them in their struggles and give them hope. We are thankful for compassionate people who answer their call for help.

Pray for those who suffer around the world.

Silence.

We pray for those who are ill, for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying and those who stand beside them as they find their way home.

Pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.

Silence.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence.

**Our hearts are full this day, Lord, as we embrace
new life in you. Amen.**

Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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A PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

Presentation

All stand. As we sing, the ushers bring forward the bread and wine.

Bring up the gifts, re - joice, and sing! All that we are in of - fer - ing!

9
All that we have for trans - form - ing! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Music: *Gelobt Sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616). Words: Ellen Oak.

Please be seated.

As the offertory anthem is sung, the ushers collect the people's offerings and the Table is prepared.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Come, My Way*

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.

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.

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

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: Eugene Butler.

All stand.

As we sing, the ushers bring forward the people's offerings in support of our life and ministry.

To God the Mak - er, to the Christ, and to the Spi - rit, Three-in - One,

We sing for life in us be - gun! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Music: *Gelobt Sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpinus (1560?-1616). Words: Ellen Oak.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
 the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
 who in dying has destroyed death,
 and in 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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en 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. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

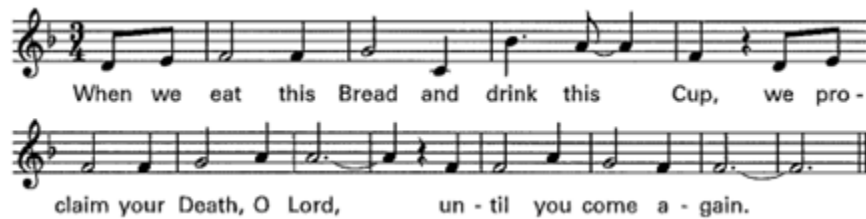
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Cantor Chants: Come, Holy Spirit.
All repeat: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor Chants: Come, Holy Spirit.
All repeat: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Deacon: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated.

All our siblings in Christ are warmly welcome to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.

COMMUNION HYMN 463 (*Blue Hymnal*) ***He is the Way***

COMMUNION HYMN WLP 783 (*Green Hymnal*) ***Heleluyan***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

All: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to show us the way, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us out as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may share your glory with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us into new life with our Risen Christ, fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit be upon you this Eastertide and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Make Your Home in Me*

Sing the verses below to the tune of Hymn 324 (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

I am the true vine, you the branches; every branch in me will bear fruit.
But without me you can do nothing, cut off from the source of all life:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

As the Father loves me, I love you. Live on in my love, keep my word.
Let my joy be yours, let it fill you. Be immersed in me, in my life:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

As I have loved you, love each other. I call you not servants, but friends.
I lay down my life for my loved ones; so you are to love in my name:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you, sent you to go out and bear fruit.
Everything you need I will give you; so you will bear fruit that will last.:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

Even though you grieve for a time now, your grief will be turned into joy.
When I come again I will bring you lasting joy that none can destroy:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

Jesus, living vine, keep your branches flourishing with life in your love.
Prune away whatever is useless, that we may bear fruit in your love:
Make you home in me, as I make mine in you; heed my word and dwell in my love.

Text: Anonymous Tune: Picardy. See H 324 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

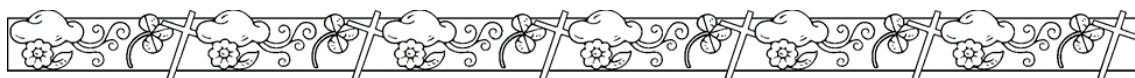
DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah* by Gene Clark

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*Our liturgy in Lent and Eastertide comes from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
Holy Communion Setting Nine. Since July 2000, the Episcopal Church and
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have been in Full Communion, allowing the
exchange of clergy, and working together for the
common mission of proclaiming and serving the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
We use this liturgy with the blessing of the
Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.*



Please hold these people on our parish prayer list in prayer this week:

Malcolm Bryant, Lee Conley, Diane Cooke, Beverly Duncan, Dick Fedele, Barbara Geary,
Daed Gharios, Bill Harland, David Hill, Ginny Huettner, Rev. Pete Jeffrey, Iris Meltzer, Ed
Moore, Jim Pender, Hector Pupo, Eleanore Recko, Bev Ridpath, Amie Saulnier, Lynn Shapiro,
Sonia Stevenson and Maddie White.

Deceased – Walter John and Edward Spellman