

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. George's Episcopal Church

May 2nd, 2021

Prelude

Easter Acclamation

*Presider*  
*People*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Canticle of Praise

*All*

Alleluia.  
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion.  
The death that Christ died was death to sin, once for all;  
but the life Christ lives, is life to God.  
So also consider yourselves dead to sin,  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a human being came death,  
by a human being has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die,  
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

*Order of St. Helena*

# The Word of God

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* God be with you  
*People* And also with you  
*Presider* Let us pray

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.

*All* Amen.

## The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

*Reader* 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.

*All* The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

# The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

*Reader*

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.

*All*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# The Gospel

John 15:1-8

*Deacon  
All*

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

*Deacon*

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."

*All*

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

# Reflections

## The Nicene Creed

*All* 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,  
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.

## The Prayers

*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*People* For all people in their daily life and work;  
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

*Leader* For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People* For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Leader* For the just use of abundance, and right relationship with your creation;  
*People* For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

*Leader* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*People* For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

*Leader* For Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Thomas our Bishop; and for the ministry of all the baptized.

*People* **For all who serve God in the Church.**

*Leader* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Please offer your own petitions.*

Hear us Lord.

*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Leader* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Please offer your own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God of Resurrection.

*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Leader* We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Please offer your own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*Presider* O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Presider* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## Announcements

## Offertory

*All your gifts support our common life and ministry at St. George's parish.  
Even when we are apart, we are growing as a community  
practicing care for one another, shaped by love, and committed to our neighbors.*

*To give online: <https://stgeorgesyh.breezechms.com/give/online>*

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*All* **Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*All* Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

## The Lord's Prayer

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,  
*All* Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## The Invitation

*When we are unable to receive the bread and wine, we are nonetheless united with Christ by the Holy Spirit in our heartfelt desire to share in the Eucharist. Our tradition teaches that in this spiritual communion, we receive all the benefits of communion. We invite all those worshipping at home now to say this prayer:*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. 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 Prayer Book for the Armed Forces*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*All*

**God of abundance, you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

Blessing

Dismissal

*A Deacon dismisses the people, and the people respond*

*All*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Altar flowers this morning are given by  
Sue Holz, Carol Carmichael, Anne Goodwin and Kate Ford,  
In thanksgiving and memory of our wonderful Dad Dick Marshall

# Parish Prayer List

**Parishioners:** Peggi Gregory and family, Brian Shaw and family, Tina Hayes, Paul Brouker, Sylvia Burke, Ted Little, Terry Lohmann, Erin Maher, Charlie Smith, Heidi, Betsy Komar, Ken Barrett and family, Barbara Kautz, Suzanne Thompson, Dick Santoro, Ed Harding, Frank Jillson, Debby Ehret, Will Bewster, Bud Haugh, Peter Blanchard

**Friends and Family:** Perry Mixer, Eric Lauer, Santoro Family, Cynthia Jordan, Carmin Puntillo, Jordan, Patrick Driscoll, Jill Lynch, Mike Clfrino, Lee Koonce, Stephanie and Dean Batterman, Jill Burke, Barbara Yingst, Tom Block, Reverend Pamela Brouker, Gail Collins, Colby Durand, Gigi Edwards, Henry Flinkstrom, Annette Franzo, George Frantzis, Joanie and Kara, Lynn Jacobs, Joseph Kittel, Cathy Little, Caroline and Herb Lynn, Robert Merkle, Beth Nixon, Bob Porter, Fred Reisz, Darcy Rice and family, Rich, Kathy, Faith, Alyssa, and Hope Ritch, Stephan, John and Virginia Treganowan, Barbara Toscano, Cynthia Donahue, Thomas Gambrell Alden and his family, Carl and Christine Stallings; Everett Butcher, Ryan MacKay, Margery, JoAnn Eves, Erika Kraft-Crwaford, Isaac and his parents Noelle and Jack

**In the Armed Forces:** Jakob Folley, Jacob Brouker, Colby Gregory, Sarah Eck Gregory, Andrew Macomber, Shawn McCann, Michael McPhail, Todd MacCallum, Matt Poling, Michael Reagan, Andrew Smith, Ben Smith, Patrick Taylor.

**Additional Prayers:** Pray for the people of Lebanon. Pray for the children and staff at Niños con Valor as they mourn the death of Luna.

**Rest in Peace:** Jeanne Eaton, Eve Barrett, Scott Gregory, Sidney Kassir, Pat Shaw, Caleb Wallace, Gretchen Lane, Luna, Suzanne D'Arinzo, Arthur Eves, William Reid, Jim Mixer

*If you would like to add someone to or offer updates for the parish prayer list, please contact Nancy Daigle at 207-703-9059 or contact the parish office.*

# Announcements

## Sharing Communion

### Today at 10:30

It's been such a joy each time we've shared communion during this season. This morning, all are welcome to come meet outdoors at St. George's following our online worship to receive the bread consecrated in the celebration of the Eucharist. We'll gather on the parking lot side of the church. Masks are required.

## Next Parish Hike

### Saturday, May 8th

Mark your calendars to come out and spend time connecting with one another and the good creation outside our doors on Saturday, May 8th! This month, we'll walk along the York River and Smelt Brook at the Smelt Brook Preserve. We'll meet at 10:00am across Highway 91 from the trailhead in the parking lot at Highland Farm Preserve.

## Wednesday Book Group:

This week we'll continue our conversation about former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams' small, beautiful book of meditations on icons of the Transfiguration, the Resurrection, the Hospitality of Abraham, and Christ as Pantocrator. *The Dwelling of the Light* explores these icons as places of encounter with God that change us--the "basis for a transformed vision of the world in the transfigured and tranfiguring reality of Jesus."

**On April 28: Chapter 4.**

All are welcome to join in the conversation each week via Zoom at 9:00am.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5860955152>

## Meditations During Pandemic

You can spend prayerful time this week with new writing and photography, and find all our past offerings on the Meditations blog, by following this link:

<https://stgeorgesyorkharbor.org/reflections/>

## Inquirers Class

Later this spring, I invite all who are curious about exploring the foundations of Christian spirituality and our particular tradition as Episcopalians to join a series of five conversations. We'll talk about the cycle of the Church Year, Scripture, Baptism, Eucharist, and Prayer, with history woven throughout. What we've experienced in the past year may have generated fresh questions for you, or sharpened old questions; bring them all. Because we have flexibility in when and how we meet, if this is something you know you'd like to be a part of, please email me to let me know what days or times would work best for you.

- Fr. Ryan

## Worship Tech

These past many months, our Sunday live streams have depended on a small group of volunteers who run the audio and video during the service. It's time now to expand that team, so that our online worship can sustainably continue into the future as an offering of this congregation even as we look to gathering in person. These two roles--audio and video-- are accessible to anyone curious, and we're ready to teach you! Please get in touch with Fr. Ryan at

[ryanfmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org](mailto:ryanfmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org)

## St. George's York Harbor

### Parish Office

(207) 363-7376 / [office@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org](mailto:office@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org)

### Rector

(207) 363-6886 / [ryanfmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org](mailto:ryanfmails@stgeorgesyorkharbor.org)

Rector's drop-in office hours: Mondays, 8-11