

# A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST

DO NOT LET  
**YOUR HEARTS**  
♥ BE TROUBLED ♥  
trust in  
♥ God ♥  
*John 14:1*

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Sharon E. Williams, Rector

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## **Mission Statement**

To love and serve God and our neighbor, by striving to meet the needs of God's people.

## **Vision Statement**

To be a Christian community of faith where love lives, love works, to spread the good news of God's grace and mercy.

**Celebrant**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*The People SHOUT***The Lord is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!***The People say*

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.****Celebrant**

The Lord be with you.

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

Let us pray.

**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.**

**FIRST READING****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

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver 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 commend 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 persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 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.**

**GRADUAL HYMN**

Thou Art the Way, to Thee Alone

Hymnal 457

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 14: 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.**

## **SERMON**

### **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.***

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We pray for the church, for all Christians everywhere, for Anne, our bishop, for William and Arthur, our retired bishops, and for all in our parish.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

Gracious God, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, and help us to show your love to others. (Especially, we pray for those of different political and moral opinions)

God of love,  
**grant our prayer.**

We pray for all people, for places where there is war or famine.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

God our creator, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom. (Especially, we pray for our government leaders)

God of love,  
**grant our prayer.**

We pray for our community and for all who live and work in this area.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

God, our friend, we pray for our families and friends. May we be able to help each other just as you love and help us.

God of love,  
**grant our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, for sick people, for those in the hospital, and for those with any other problems. Especially Les Blakemore, Jan Wooley and James Bragg.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

Compassionate God, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or mentally/emotionally challenged. And bless all those who try to help them.

God of love  
**grant our prayer.**

We remember all those who have died.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

God of hope, we thank you that not even death can separate us from your love. We pray for all who mourn, that they may feel your care for them.

God of love,  
**grant our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves – all that we will do this week, and all those we will meet.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

Loving God, we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it.

*(all pause for silent prayer)*

God of love,  
**grant our prayer.**

### **Celebrant**

Those things, O God, that your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake.

***Amen.***

**CONFESSION OF SIN**            *You may stand or be seated as able.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and 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 PEACE**

*All stand, as able.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord with a bow or wave.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

## OFFERTORY

Total Praise

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

## THE 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise.

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of Host  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand.*

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Andrew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. ***Amen.***

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **FRACTION ANTHEM**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If for any reason, you prefer not to receive the cup of wine when it is offered, simply cross your arms over your chest.*

## HYMNS AT THE COMMUNION

What a Friend We Have in Jesus	LEVAS 109
The Lord is My Shepherd	LEVAS 104
I can Hear My Savior Calling	LEVAS 144

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.*

## THE BENEDICTION

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**    Come My Way, My Truth, My Life    Hymnal 487

## DISMISSAL

**Celebrant**                      Let us go forth in the world rejoicing in the power of the spirit!  
*People*                              **Thanks be to God!**

## LAY READER'S SCHEDULE

DATE	I LESSON	II LESSON	PRAYERS
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kelly Henderson-Kessell	Charles Bradford	Brenda Shepherd
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Jackson	Darcel Arrington	Velma Romain-Rouse
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Williams	Anna Marie Ferguson	Yvonne Gates
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Will Seifert-Kessell	Dianne Audrick Smith	Pearl Culbreath
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Andrea Porter	Jerome Rubin	Stephanie Combs

### CHALICE MINISTERS

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lois Jackson, Rod Adams, Andrea Porter
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rod Adams, Lois Jackson, Darcel Arrington
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Jackson, Rod Adams, Kelly Henderson-Kessell
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Rod Adams, Lois Jackson, Gail Williams
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Lois Jackson, Rod Adams, <b>Alternate – Linda Adams</b>

### USHER'S SCHEDULE

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Darcel, Kelly
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Patti Joy, Gail
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Jim, Pearl
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Andrea, Leticia
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Darcel, Patty Joy

### VESTRY COUNTERS' SCHEDULE

First Sunday	Andrea Appling, Darcel Arrington
Second Sunday	Roderick Adams, Carmen Wildgoose
Third Sunday	Andrea Porter, Brenda Shepherd
Fourth Sunday	Giesele Greene, William Seifert-Kessell
Fifth Sunday	Dianne Smith, Andrea Appling



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