



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here, just as you are, to experience God's love.

St. John's is a compassionate Christian community of healing, hope, and hospitality at the heart of Centreville's Historic District. First consecrated on July 14, 1854, St. John's was partially burned in the Civil War, rebuilt, expanded, and is now home to many faith communities. To learn more about us, talk to one of our clergy, chat up a neighbor, join us after worship, and visit us at stjohnscentreville.org.

Today's service follows the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Responses are in bold. Music can be found in the blue hymnals in your pew. Service music, noted with an "S," can be found in the front of the book, and our hymns, noted by an "H" and their number, after that. Participate as the Spirit moves you!

Services are live-streamed, so please be aware that you are being recorded. Cell phone use—texting, pictures, video, social media—is encouraged, but please silence your devices and disable Wi-Fi during worship.

The Word of God

Prelude

Processional Hymn: H 583, "O holy city, seen of John"

Morning Song

Opening Acclamation

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

BCP, p. 355

Collect for Purity

Song of Praise: H 417 "This is the feast of victory..."

Festival Canticle

(All sing vv. 1,3,5; Men v. 2; Women v. 4)

Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 225

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

Children's Story

Our youngest parishioners are invited to come forward for today's story. They'll adjourn to children's chapel, returning in time for Communion.

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

Response: Psalm 148, *Laudate Dominum*

BCP, p. 805

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; * **praise him in the heights.**

Praise him, all you angels of his; * **praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon; * **praise him, all you shining stars.**

Praise him, heaven of heavens, * **and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord; * **for he commanded, and they were created.**

He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *

he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, * **you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

Fire and hail, snow and fog, * **tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

Mountains and all hills, * **fruit trees and all cedars;**

Wild beasts and all cattle, * **creeping things and winged birds;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, * **princes and all rulers of the world;**

Young men and maidens, * **old and young together.**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *

for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, *

the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am

making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

Gospel Hymn: H 487, "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"

The Call

Gospel: John 13:31-35

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Sermon: The Rev. Steve Busch

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP, p. 387

The Peace

BCP, p. 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

At this time, the gifts of God in bread and wine and the gifts of the people are collected and brought forward in thanksgiving. Thanks to all who have pledged a portion of their time, talent, and treasure to God's mission here at St. John's.



As the Spirit moves you, please give generously by cash or check, use the QR code at right to donate online, or text STJOHNSCENTREVILLE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Donations of food and other items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and the Katharine K. Hanley Family Shelter can be given to the usher or to the church office.

The Presentation of Alms & Oblations: H 380, vs. 3, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

Sanctus: S 125, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord"

Prayer A (cont.)

BCP, p. 362

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: S 161, "Lamb of God"

Agnus Dei

Communion Hymn: H 315, "Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray"

Song I

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: H 432, "O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height"

Laudate Dominum

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harold Carver, by Craig Staresinich and Nita Amar.

The Next Chapter. As you heard today in church, help us write the next chapter at St. John's by donating:



- by check with "Next Chapter 2025" in the memo line;
- online, using the QR code inside or at right, selecting "Next Chapter 2025;" and/or
- by gifting an appreciated stock or mutual fund, or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. Please designate as "Next Chapter 2025."

For more information, contact Fr. Kevin, Lisa Heller, and/or Andrew Wade.

Progressive Dinner. The Progressive Dinner returns this Saturday, May 24! Those who signed up should receive instructions shortly.

Memorial Day Office. Join us for a brief observance of Memorial Day next Sunday, May 25. We'll gather at 9:00 AM by the bell before our usual Sunday worship.

Volunteers Welcome! Over the next few months, we are looking for volunteers who may be willing to help members of the vestry with the organization of some upcoming events: **Pentecost (June 8)** – Parish picnic and outdoor Eucharist, **June** parish off-site trip to a local winery or park, a **July 4 celebration** – picnic and sparklers and fireworks viewing, and a **Bishop's visit**. Please be in touch with the office, the wardens, or Fr. Kevin if you are able to assist.

Coffee Hour. Please join us in the hall after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Adult Lectionary Forum. If you'd like to discuss today's readings in greater depth, grab coffee and a snack, and join us in the library after the service.

Visit Us! For more information, visit stjohnscentreville.org and subscribe to our E-notes.

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TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant: The Rev. Kevin Laskowski
Deacon: The Rev. Steve Busch
Music Director: Mandy Hull
Usher: Durinda Smith

Lector: Jerry Pankey
Acolyte: Monti Zimmerman
Alms Counters: Penny Parker, Gene Milunec
Altar Guild: Marcia Evans

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-in-Charge, Priest@StJohnsCentreville.com

The Rev. Steve Busch, Deacon, Deacon@StJohnsCentreville.com

Lisa Heller, Senior Warden, SeniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com

Val Tucker, Junior Warden, JuniorWarden@StJohnsCentreville.com

Mandy Hull, Organist & Choir Director, amandahull101@gmail.com

Terri Katon, Parish Administrator, ParishAdmin@StJohnsCentreville.com

The Rev. Jason Lody, Ministry Partners Administrator, mpadmin@stjohnscentreville.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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