



The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The 7th Sunday of Easter
The Sunday After Ascension Day

BLUEGRASS SUNDAY

May 17, 2026
Holy Eucharist Rite II

PRELUDE | Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Performed by
Heaven's Harvest Bluegrass Band

PROCESSIONAL | Are you washed in the blood?

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

Are you washed in the blood, In the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?

Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin, And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean, O be washed in the blood of the Lamb!

Refrain

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: *Alleluia.* Christ is risen.

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

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.**

GLORIA | Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | Acts 1:6-14

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM | Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. Please join in if you feel so moved.



- 1 *Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.*
- 2 *Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.*
- 3 *But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.*
- 4 *Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!*
- 5 *Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation!*
- 6 *God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in dry places.*
- 7 *O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,*
- 8 *The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.*
- 9 *You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; you refreshed the land when it was weary.*
- 10 *Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.*
- 33 *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.*
- 34 *He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.*
- 35 *Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.*
- 36 *How wonderful is God in his holy places! the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE NEW TESTAMENT | 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Lector: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | Angel Band

My latest sun is sinking fast my race is nearly run
My strongest trials now are past my triumph hath begun.

Refrain

Oh come, angel band come and around me stand

Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings to my immortal home

Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings to my immortal home

I've almost gained my heav'nly home my spirit loudly sings
The holy ones, behold they come! I hear the noise of wings.

Refrain

THE GOSPEL | John 17:1-11

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the sermon.

THE SERMON

Rev. Bob Farrow

All stand as able.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised
Common Lectionary*

For the 7th Sunday of Easter

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

Lord God who guides us and beckons us ever forward, hear now our prayers as we say, "Hear us,
ascended Lord."

Uphold and strengthen your church, reform what is amiss, bolster what is good, and keep us ever
mindful of your charge to reflect your love for us into the world.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Grant wisdom and patience to those in authority in our lives, guide them to always put human life and
wellness as their priority.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Give us courage to be engaged with, and working for, the welfare of our neighbors and the places we call
home; help us to see more clearly how to be Christ to one another.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Open our eyes to the challenges and opportunities in dealing with global issues; give us perseverance and urgency as we develop new and more sustainable ways of being.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Grant your mercy on the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families. We pray also for the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Be present to all who suffer and all who serve them; bring your healing powers to bear and let them know peace and wholeness. Especially we lift up Katherine, Bill, Charlotte, and Mary.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Welcome the dying, comfort the grieving, and let the hope of your promises be our consolation and inspiration.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Loving God, you have given us the example of Christ's life as the template for our own, and you have shown us, in his death and resurrection, the power of your promises to us. Be with us now and always as we strive to live in your kingdom every moment. All this we ask through our Lord and advocate, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Jim Gilliam

THE OFFERTORY

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

OFFERTORY HYMN | In the sweet by and by

There's a land that is fairer than day and by faith we can see it afar,
For the Father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain

In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blessed
And our spirit shall sorrow no more not a sign for the blessing of rest.

Refrain

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

HOLY COMMUNION

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 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.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord

Continues on next page

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Sanctus hymn. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody starts with a half rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,' are written below the notes.

heaven 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.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

The people stand or kneel as able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become 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 Father of all.

He 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 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever. AMEN.

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

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: *Alleluia*. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. *Alleluia*.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S 155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN | Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.

Refrain

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

RECESSIONAL | I saw the light

I wandered so aimless; life filled with sin, I wouldn't let my dear Savior in;
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night. Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Refrain:

*I saw the light, I saw the light, no more darkness, no more night;
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord! I saw the light.*

Just like a blind man, I wandered along, worries and fears I claimed for my own:
Then, like the blind man that God gave back his sight – Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Refrain

I was a fool to wander and stray straight is the gate and narrow's the way;
now I have traded the wrong for the right. Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE | I'll Fly Away

Performed by
Heaven's Harvest Bluegrass Band

+ + + + +

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please join us for lunch – all are welcome!

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Welcome to our musicians today: Heaven's Harvest Bluegrass Band

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Katherine Johnson, her brother Bill McCowan, Mary Butcher, and Cavan Klein's girlfriend Charlotte. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Stafford Long, April Moore, Hudson Garrett, and Kenny Hall and his family

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,
and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

MINISTERS THIS WEEK

John Brent, *Lector*
William Morgan & Steven Morse, *Ushers*
Drucye Cox, *Virtual Minister*
Connie Blackmon, *Eucharistic Minister*
Riley-Anne Johnson, *Crucifer*
Jim Gilliam & Alex Garrett, *Flowers*

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

- MAY 20: Cookies, Crafts & Conversation 3 pm
- MAY 24: Pentecost/Whitsunday
- MAY 25: Memorial Day (office closed)
- MAY 27: St. Nicholas Game AFTERNOON 1:00 p.m.



The **2026 Capital Campaign** has officially kicked off. You should be receiving a letter from Father Bob and the Campaign chairs in the mail soon, with a brochure and pledge card. If you'd like to go ahead and see more information on it, including how to play your part (no matter how large or small!) you can go to our home page: www.stnicholashamilton.org and look at the top menu for "2026 Capital Campaign." Everything you need is there, including FAQs and links to submit your pledge and payments electronically if you so choose.

You can always see Beth Brown or Jim Gilliam if you have questions. **Ready? Let's GROW!**

Sunday, May 24, St. Nicholas will be sending volunteers to [El Refugio](#), a hospitality house in Lumpkin that supports detainees at Stewart Detention Center and their loved ones through hospitality, visitation, support, and advocacy. St. Nicholas volunteers will be assisting with housekeeping tasks like stripping beds and laundering linens. See **Margaret Zachry** for more information.

Other Ways to Support El Refugio

Write a Card to people detained and loved ones	Donate Household items	Prepare a Meal	Donate Gas gift cards	Financial Contributions
				

The **Rev. Tom Jones** died on May 11, 2026. Tom served as rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus from 1987-2004, and was instrumental in getting St. Nicholas started as a parish. Read his obituary here: www.simplecremationtn.com/obituaries/thomas-jones.



Get all the news: Use this QR code to access the weekly newsletter.