



Wonder Church

May 3, 2026

The 5th Sunday of Easter

GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME

Prelude

GROUP REFLECTION

Gather in the nave before the service. Father Bob will give you a Gospel-related question or topic to reflect upon and discuss with your fellow congregants.

GATHERING MUSIC

Morning Has Broken

Please stand as you are able to sing.

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

THE COLLECT

Remain standing. We say the words together.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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



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.

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 GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

Remain standing as you are able.

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

People: 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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE CREED

Please stand as you are able. We say the words in bold together.

We believe in God, **our Father in heaven.**

We believe in God, **who made the world.**

We believe in God, **who gives us life and helps us grow.**

We believe in Jesus, **the son of God and the son of Mary.**

We believe in Jesus, **who shows us that God is love.**

We believe in Jesus, **who lived and died for us.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us love others.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who makes us holy.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us to know God.**

We are God's family, **the church.**

We are God's family, **forgiven through Jesus Christ.**

We are God's family, **at home with God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand or kneel as they are able.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of our creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Katherine, Mary, and Charlotte.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

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

Silence.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

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

Silence.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

THE CONFESSION

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you

In thought, word, and deed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

EXCHANGE THE PEACE

All stand for the peace.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

May Birthdays: Gene Wells, Grace Johnson, Martha Dimon. Andy Butzon, Rose Brent, Shanti Patel

May Anniversaries: Graham and Marci Horne, Kin and Beth Brown

OFFERTORY

It's the first Sunday of the month! All loose offerings will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. One of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people is by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities. The need is always great; please consider a small contribution.

OFFERTORY HYMN

When we all get to Heaven

See next page

1. Sing the won-drous love of Je-sus, Sing His mer-cy and His grace;
 2. While we walk the pil-grim path-way, Clouds will o-ver-spread the sky;
 3. Let us then be true and faith-ful, Trust-ing, serv-ing ev-'ry day;
 4. On-ward to the prize be-fore us! Soon His beau-ty we'll be-hold;

1. In the man-sion bright and bless-ed, He'll pre-pare for us a place.
 2. But when trav-'ling days are o-ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.
 3. Just one glimpse of Him in glo-ry Will the toils of life re-pay;
 4. Soon the pearl-y gates will o-pen; We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all _____ get to heav-en, What a day of re-

When we all get to heav-en, What a

joic-ing that will be! _____ When we all _____ see

day of re-joic-ing that will be! _____ When we all see

Je-sus, We'll sing and shout the vic-to-ry. _____

Je-sus, We'll sing and shout, and shout the vic-to-ry.

The Presentation

We will sing the Doxology as we make our way forward to surround the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer and the Ushers bring up the offering baskets. Stand two deep in a semi-circle as you are able - or remain seated until communion .

The Doxology

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.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic Prayer - Adapted Prayer A

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Father, Creator of all. You made everything and you made us. You called us to new life in Jesus. And so we praise you, singing with the angels, and the saints, and all of heaven:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

Continues on next page.

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 Celebrant continues

Holy Father, you love us so much, you made us to be with you; and even when we all turned away from you and your love, you came toward us. You sent Jesus, your Son, who became human, like us. Jesus said such amazing things and did such wonderful things, that people began to follow him. He turned us back to you.

On the night before Jesus died on the cross, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Then he lifted up the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them, and said, "Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

So, let's celebrate the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

- Christ has died.**
- Christ is risen.**
- Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

Holy Spirit, make these gifts holy, to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and never-ending life in him. Make us holy too, so we can receive the bread and wine and live in peace.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

BREAK THE BREAD

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast, alleluia.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Love of God, how strong and true

Kevin Anderson will perform this hymn.

SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.

All people are invited to receive Communion. Extend two hands if you wish to receive the bread and the wine; one hand if you want bread only. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. The clergy will stand by the first pews and you can make your way to them to receive communion and then return to your pews.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Standing or kneeling.

Loving God,

we give you thanks for feeding us with spiritual food,

the bread of life and cup of salvation,

Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth a people

forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may share your love and joy

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

BLESSING

Please stand for the blessing.

CLOSING HYMN

See next page

To God be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; so loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our re -

world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, through

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11.11.11.11 with refrain

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Response: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,
to the left as you exit the nave.

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.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Katherine Johnson, 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.

UPCOMING DATES

- MAY 6: St. Nicholas Book Club after Evening Prayer
MAY 10: Mother's Day
MAY 17: Bluegrass Sunday!
MAY 20: Cookies, Crafts & Conversation 3 pm
MAY 24: Pentecost/Whitsunday
MAY 25: Memorial Day (office closed)
MAY 27: St. Nicholas Game Night after Evening Prayer
JUNE 13: Harris County Juneteenth Celebration
Benefits the BackSnacks program

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

Lector: Alex Garrett
Ushers: Alex Garrett & Jim Gilliam
Virtual Minister: Katherine Johnson
Eucharistic Minister: John Brent
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

St. Nicholas Book Club News: For its May read, the Book Club has selected *The Searcher*, a 2020 mystery novel by American-Irish writer Tana French. A retired Chicago cop seeks quiet in rural Ireland but gets drawn into a missing-person mystery. Slow-burn, thoughtful, and character rich. The Book Club next meets on May 6 after Evening Prayer at 5:00.

Remember to vote: The General Primary Election is May 19, 2026. (Early in-person voting runs April 27 - May 15.) See the Harris County Voter Information 2026 brochures in the narthex for more, or www.harriscountytga.gov/board-of-elections-registration.



Bluegrass Sunday

May 17, 2026 10:00 a.m.

A picnic-style lunch will follow.
Please join us!



Parish Life will be providing tea and lemonade for lunch after the service, but please sign up on the kitchen pass-through to bring picnic-style dishes: Sandwiches, cold salads, and desserts.

Did you know St. Nicholas has a **library**? It's in the Vesting Room. There is a wide selection of books on Episcopalianism, Christian living, Spirituality, and a few fiction and nonfiction items that have wandered their way to our shelves. You can search the catalog here: www.librarything.com/profile/StNicholasChurch, or stop by sometime to browse.

Wear your name tag! It makes life so much easier for newcomers and visitors.