



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

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

**Holy Eucharist Rite II**

PRELUDE |

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Oriel* Blessed city, heavenly Salem

Hymnal 520

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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

*Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | Acts 11:1-18

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 148 *Laudate Dominum*

*The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.*

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

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

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

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

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

**6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

**14 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!**

**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 | Revelation 21:1-6

Lector: A reading from the Revelation to John.

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."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

SEQUENCE HYMN | Mckee In Christ there is no East or West Hymnal 529

THE GOSPEL | John 13:31-35

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

People: **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."

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

For the Fifth Sunday of Easter

from *Planning for Rites and Rituals:  
A Resource for Episcopal Worship*

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

Baptized with the Holy Spirit, let us offer prayers for all those God loves.

For the whole world and all the churches of God.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For this holy gatherine and our sacrifice of praise

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all who minister and for all the holy people of God.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For al those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homess, and oppressed.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For ourselves, our families, adn those we love.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Remembering our most glorious and Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Nicholas and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of glory, who gave us you Son. Hear the prayers we offer this day, come among your people, and wipe away every tear from their eyes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

**Ella Hughes**, Christine Risdon's daughter, graduated from Northside High School. She is in the National Honor Society and on the Varsity Volleyball Team. Ella will be attending Oglethorpe University on a volleyball scholarship.

## 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 | Soon and very soon

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're are goin' to see the King!

## THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

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

## HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING | Eucharistic 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 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 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:

## The Holy Eucharist II

S 125

### Holy, holy, holy Lord      *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*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*.**

## S 164

## The Holy Eucharist

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God

*Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

This musical notation is for the first part of the Fraction Anthem. It consists of a two-staff system with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

This musical notation is for the second part of the Fraction Anthem. It consists of a two-staff system with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us." The music continues the hymn-like style from the first part.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:'. The second system has the lyrics 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with many chords and some melodic lines.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*After taking communion, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the front of the church for special prayer and blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN | *Land of Rest* I come with joy to meet my Lord Hymnal 304

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 | *Aurelia* The Church's one foundation

Hymnal 525

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

+ + + + + + +

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

*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 Mike Sawyer, Edward Martin, Martha Sue Blythe, and Asa Garris. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our homebound congregants: Liz Dixon and Jewell Wells.

Congratulations to Ella Hughes, Christine Risdon's daughter, who is graduating from Northside high. She is in the National Honor Society and on the Varsity Volleyball Team. She'll be attending Oglethorpe in the fall.

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

Rose Brent, *Senior Warden*

Martha Dimon, *Junior Warden*

Carolyn Cox, Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry

Alex Garrett, Clerk of the Vestry

Jim Gilliam, Treasurer

## MINISTERS THIS WEEK

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Lector:               | Alex Garrett               |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Martha Dimon               |
| Ushers:               | Alex Garrett & Jim Gilliam |
| Virtual Minister:     | Katherine Johnson          |
| Crucifer:             | Riley-Anne Johnson         |
| Flowers:              | Carleen Frokjer            |

## UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

MAY 18 – **Vestry** meets after the service.

MAY 26 - **Memorial Day**– the office will be closed.

JUNE 1 - **First Sunday Brunch** Our monthly fellowship event is June 1 after the service. Sign up in the narthex if you would like to attend.

JUNE 4 – **Book Club** meets after Evening Prayer at 5 pm. The selected book for June is Amor Towles' *Rules of Civility*. See your weekly newsletter for more.

JUNE 8 - **Bluegrass Sunday** Join us for a toe-tapping good time and be sure to sign up in the narthex for the potluck afterward. We'll be doing picnic-style food for this – sign up in the narthex.

JUNE 14 - **Harris County's Juneteenth Celebration** is Saturday, June 14 at the rec center. St. Nicholas supports this event every year, and the program will be fun and informative for all, so do come out and enjoy the festivities!

JUNE 29 – **Pulpit Swap with Christian Valley** is here at St. Nicholas, which is a reversal of how we usually do it. Stay tuned for information on our hospitality plans.

## Summer butt season is coming!



(Apologies - Erin is having way too much fun with the puns.) But it's true: Our Boston Butt fundraiser begins soon! We will be selling **choice 6-lb boneless** Boston Butts prepared by our Low Country Boil caterer. They will be \$55 each and, as always, there is the option to purchase one for donation to FOCUS or Pocket Change to aid the hungry in our community. Sales will be during the month of June, and pick-up will be Thursday, July 3 – just in time for the holiday weekend. Get ready!

Harris County's Juneteenth Celebration is right around the corner from us this year at the Community Center, and proceeds benefit our BackSnacks program.

St. Nicholas has always been a supporter of this event in the name of sharing the love of Christ among all people and promoting unity and education in our community. We hope you and your family will come and lend your presence to the work of our parish.

If the graphic to the right is too small, there are flyers around the church and a re-sizable version in your weekly email.

