

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A    ❖    MAY 3, 2026

VOLUNTARY

*Come Away To The Skies*

American folk hymn, arr. Held

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Father, we praise thee”

Hymnal 1

TRADITIONAL COLLECT

BCP 173

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY COLLECT

BCP 225

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.**

THE FIRST LESSON

*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 PSALM

31:1-5, 15-16

Music: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)

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 de- / liver 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.

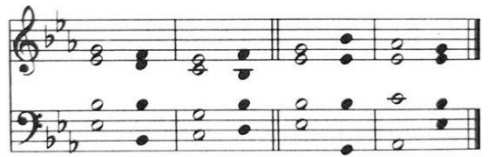
15 My times are in your / hand; \*



rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who / persecute me.

*2<sup>nd</sup> half of chant*

16 Make your face to shine upon your / servant, \*  
and in your lovingkindness / save me.



## THE SECOND LESSON

*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.

*During the hymn, children three years old to fifth grade are invited to follow the banner-bearer to Children’s Church. They will return at the Peace.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

“O Love of God, how strong and true”

Hymnal 455

THE GOSPEL

*John 14:1-14*

Jesus told his disciples, “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.”

SERMON

The Rev. Maricclair Partee Carlsen

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies*

Philip Ledger

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light.

Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o’er the shades of night;

Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;

Joyless is the day’s return, till thy mercy’s beams I see;

Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;

More and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

(Charles Wesley)

PRESENTATION HYMN

Hymn 174, v. 4

worship booklet p. 7

*After the Invitation, all baptized persons may come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized or do not wish to receive Communion, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. If you would like a gluten-free host, tell the priest at the communion rail. Please join the choir in singing the hymns during communion.*

Hymn “Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life” Hymnal 487

Hymn “He is the Way” Hymnal 464

Hymn “Strengthen for service, Lord” Hymnal 312

CLOSING HYMN

“Christ is made the sure foundation”

Hymnal 518

DISMISSAL *chanted*

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

*People:* **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

VOLUNTARY

*Praise To The Lord*

arr. Hans Friedrich Micheelsen



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today, the flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by **the Flower Guild**. You can dedicate flowers with a donation. Use the registry book in the narthex. An usher there can help.
- Today **Newcomers** and friends gather for refreshments at 12:30 in the Conference Room (#127). From there, John Malsby will lead a tour with Q&A included.
- May 5 Tue **St. Anne's Chapter**, 10AM for Mary Nimsgern's tales of The Polk St. Players.
- May 6 Wed midday **Healing Service**, Holy Eucharist Rite I, Lawrence chapel, 12:30PM + Wednesday evening program (*details below*)
- May 9 Sat funeral for **Pollyanne Barnes** 2PM in the sanctuary; reception follows + **Wonder Church** 5:30PM & **Guardians Night Out** 6:00PM-8:00PM – *final time this season!*
- May 10 Sun **Mothers Day** Cherubs and Choristers will sing at the 10:30 service
- May 14 Thu **Ascension Day** celebrated here with St. Catherine's, St. Benedict's, and Annunciation. **Pot Luck supper** 6:00PM, **Holy Eucharist** 7:00PM. *Sally Karkula is organizing the pot luck. Please offer help at sgkarkula@gmail.com*

**Ongoing Events** Mondays handbells 6p, tower bells 7pm **Tuesdays** Bible study 12:30p; **Wednesdays** Knitting for Charity 10a, Centering Prayer online 4p; **Wednesday evening program** 5:30 youth group, 5:45 dinner, 6:30 evening prayer + cherub choir & choristers, 7:00 express adult formation, and 7:30 parish choir. RSVP with QR code below. **Saturdays** Tower Bells 10a



← RSVP  
for dinner  
Wednesday  
May 6



← Subscribe to *The Bells of St. James* for weekly news, inspiration, and opportunities for service.

**Notice of live-streaming broadcast:** Our worship services are live-streamed and posted to social media. If you have concerns about being on camera, please ask one of the ushers to show you seating with limited exposure.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. James Episcopal Church</b> 161 Church St., Marietta GA 30060</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Reverend Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, Rector</b> <i>for pastoral emergencies, phone or text: for an appointment, sign up online</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Bryan Black, Director of Music Natalie Fowler, Children's Ministry Coordinator Kelsey Andries, Interim Youth Director Scott Smoot, Communications Coordinator</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office hours</b> Monday – Thursday, 9am-1pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.stjamesmarietta.com">www.stjamesmarietta.com</a> 770-428-5841 <a href="mailto:rector@stjamesmarietta.com">rector@stjamesmarietta.com</a> 678-369-1775 <a href="https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta">https://calendly.com/rector-stjamesmarietta</a> <a href="mailto:music@stjamesmarietta.com">music@stjamesmarietta.com</a> <a href="mailto:children@stjamesmarietta.com">children@stjamesmarietta.com</a> <a href="mailto:youth@stjamesmarietta.com">youth@stjamesmarietta.com</a> <a href="mailto:communications@stjamesmarietta.com">communications@stjamesmarietta.com</a></p>
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