



St. John's Episcopal Church

1623 Carmel Road * Charlotte, NC 28226

StJE.org * 704-366-3034

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

April 28, A.D. 2024

Welcome to worship! We pray that our time of worship will express praise and thanks to God for the gift of Christ, and help you live a more faithful and abundant life.

If you are a visitor, please know that we are delighted that you are here. We know that following the beautiful and ancient worship of the Episcopal Church is not always easy for those unfamiliar with the Anglican tradition. Please do not feel obligated to do anything but to enjoy the service reverently and expectantly.

We invite newcomers to fill out a visitor's card, found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our ushers or clergy.

If you have young children, please know they are more than welcome at St. John's. Changing stations are available in the bathrooms. A nursery for children ages 3 and younger is available on the lower level if needed on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please see an usher to help you locate the nursery.

Hearing assistance devices are also located at the rear exit of the church. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Audio-induction hearing loops are available for use with hearing aids.

Please be advised that the 10:15 Sunday Service is live-streamed to St. John's web site, Facebook and YouTube accounts.

8:00 & 10:15 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Organ Voluntary
Hymn 182

Praeambulum e Ciacona in C
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Dieterich Buxtehude
Truro

Easter Acclamation and Collect for Purity Book of Common Prayer, Page 355

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant 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.**

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum* (Wyton metrical setting, *WLP*, Hymn 880)

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Refrain

1. God's Pas-chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us; There - forewith
2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain; death has no
3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead: though Ad-am's

6

joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for - sak - ing sin, we
more do - min - ion o - ver him; Through him we die to
sin had doomed all flesh to die, in Christ's new life shall

11

share the bread of truth. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
sin and live to God. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
all be made a - live. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

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Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams. © Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-711238.

The Collect of the Day

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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.**

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

NRSV

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus* (spoken at 8:00)

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24 My praise is of him in the great as/sembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who /worship him.

25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

and those who seek the LORD shall /praise him: *

"May your heart live for /ever!"

26 **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the /LORD, ***

and all the families of the nations shall bow be/fore him.

27 **For kingship belongs to the /LORD; ***

he rules over the /nations.

28 **To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in /worship; ***

all who go down to the dust fall be/fore him.

29 **My soul shall live for him;**

my descendants shall /serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for /ever.



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

**+30 They shall come and make known to a people yet un/born *
the saving deeds that he has /done.**

+Second half of double chant

New Testament Lesson: I John 4:7-21

NRSV

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(8:00) Gospel Alleluia
Sung by all



(10:15) Hymn 379

God is love, let heaven adore him

Abbot's Leigh

The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

NRSV

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

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

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed

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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.

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

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In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

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 your 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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

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 The People may add their own thanksgivings

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 The People may add their own petitions

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. *Silence may be kept. The people kneel.*

Have mercy upon us, **most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect. . . . Amen.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

(All gathered may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.)

Birthday/Anniversary Prayer—**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* celebrate(s) another year. Grant that *they* may continue to grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their lives*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(10:15) Children's Sermon

The Holy Communion

(10:15) Offertory Anthem

I am the true Vine

Margaret Sandresky

I am the true vine, and ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit . . . Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you . . . This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.—*John 15:5, 8, 9, 12, King James Version*

Hymn 174, st. 1-2

At the Lamb's high feast we sing

Salzburg

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer A *The people stand.*

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.**

Celebrant 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 sins of the world. By his death he 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:

S-125

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.

From *A Community Mass* by Richard Prolix.
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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:

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, Page 364
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 Page 364
Fraction anthem: Be known to us, Lord Jesus (Adapted by Mason Martens, Hymnal S-171)

Antiphon: Cantor; then All




Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor

2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,
for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

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Invitation to Communion

All baptized Christians, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Please stand or kneel to receive Communion. The bread will be placed on your palm. Then you may arise or wait to receive the cup, grasping the base to guide it to your lips. If you want the minister to dip the wafer in the wine, please keep the bread in your hand, and s/he will dip the wafer and place it between your fingers or on your tongue. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to receive gluten free bread, please tell the priest.

(10:15) Communion Hymns

Hymn 487	<i>Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life</i>	The Call
Hymn 305	<i>Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest</i>	Rosedale
LEVAS 106	<i>How great thou art</i>	Stuart K. Hine
Hymn 307	<i>Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor</i>	Bryn Calfaria

Commissioning of Home Communion Visitors

When Communion is to be taken to homebound parishioners, Eucharistic ministers will be sent forth from our gathering with the consecrated bread using these words:

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread, and one cup.**

Postcommunion Prayer

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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.

The Celebrant may bless the people.

Hymn 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling* Hyfrydol

The Easter Dismissal: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Voluntary *Trumpet in D major* Jeremiah Clarke

Looking ahead to the Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5
Acts of the Apostles 10:44-48, Psalm 98, I John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

PARISH LIFE at St. John's

News and Announcements

Priceless!

Each Sunday Usually breakfast is offered 8:45-9:45 a.m., but not today. Christian Education for all ages is offered at 9:15 a.m.

Children (age 3 to first grade) are invited to meet in the Children's Chapel. **Explorers** (grades 1-5) meet in Room 208. Both groups meet at 10:10 a.m. and join the service in the church during the Peace each Sunday.

Wednesday Night Supper!—May 1. Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, salad, dessert. Supper is served 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The Way Forward Presents Forward Facts: "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God—*Ephesians 3:17-19*. The Way Forward meets in Room 204/205 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15.

Hagar's Basket—Prep Day, Thursday, May 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Pantry Day Wednesday, May 15, 8:00-11:00 a.m.; Please continue to donate hygiene items like sanitary pads, cleaning supplies, soap, shampoo, and \$\$\$. More volunteers are needed at tinyurl.com/pum7zk3f We served 180 families last month!

From Rachel Shelton: Thank you to everyone who attended "Party with a Purpose" in March to support our Belize Mission Team! We raised \$8,754, and we are so grateful! It was such a fun night! Thank you to our awesome team members for their hard work hosting and to everyone that served and volunteered during the event! We also want to thank everyone who has donated to our trip in some way—we are getting very excited!

St. John's Fellowship Golf Tournament and fundraiser for the Trinity Campaign, June 17. Register today on Realm!

Contribute to the Trinity Campaign today! Help us with long-term maintenance needs. See more details at StJE.org/trinity

Registration is now open for teen volunteers for Vacation Bible School, June 17-21. Sign up on Realm today!

Let Us Pray - The Intercessory Prayer Team would love to pray for you! Fill out a prayer card from the church pews or e-mail the church office. All requests are confidential. New team members are welcome. Contact the church office to join the team today!

The Good Samaritan Fund provides financial assistance to members of the St. John's

family. To make a donation to help others, note "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line of a check to St. John's.

Youth Sunday is May 12.

Final deadline to register for EYC trips in May, this Tuesday, April 30. Contact Rachel.

Handbells concert, Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

Altar Flowers – Donor(s) needed for June 23. Sign up at tinyurl.com/9ye47r7m and follow the instructions, including listing your dedication. Contact Charlotte Pfeifer.

St. John's supports Nourish Up (formerly Loaves & Fishes) food pantry by serving three Thursdays each month, and by your kind donations of non-perishable food. Especially needed are cooking oil, flour, and Jiffy corn muffin mix. To help distribute the food, contact Louise Palmer.

If you would like to donate a prayer book or hymnal for use in the nave in honor of or in memory of someone, the cost is \$25. If a book becomes worn, the bookplate in whose honor a book was given is moved to a new prayer book or hymnal so that your gift is carried forward.

How to Receive Communion

To receive the bread alone.



To drink from the chalice, please help guide it to your lips.



To receive a blessing only (no bread or wine) or to decline the chalice.



For Intinction

Please leave the bread in your hands. The chalice bearer will take it from you dip it in the wine, and return it to you. Do not attempt to dip the bread in the chalice yourself.



To receive gluten free bread, just ask the priest.



Clerics

The Rev. Peter M. Floyd, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Brad Smith, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. Wendy Merrill, Deacon

Musicians

Mr. Alan C. Reed, Organist and Choirmaster
Ms. Angela Swicegood, Assisting Organist
Ms. Tracy Reed, Assistant for Children's Choirs
Ms. Madeline Seconi, Soprano Section Leader
Mr. Greg McAbee, Master of the Choirs of Bell and Chime
Mr. Jamey Graves, Parish Administrator & Music Associate

If you would like to contribute digitally to the general offering, just scan the QR code below with your smart phone.



You may also pay from our web site or mail a check to the church office.

Vestry

Fred Alexander (Sr. Warden), Shirley de la Canal, Brian Emigh, Bill Grant, Grant Hawgood, John Horn (Jr. Warden), Greg McAbee, Steve Nason, John Newton, Erin Richardson (Clerk), Toni Robinson (Pre-school Rep.), Clayton Watkins (Endowment Rep.)



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