



# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

**APRIL 28, 2024  
11:00 AM**

***WELCOME!***

*We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today. You bless us with your presence. We hope you will join us again. We invite all of our visitors to fill out a visitor card located in the pew and place it in the narthex.*

*The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be a community of God's people who heal brokenness, build bridges, and exemplify borderless kindness.*

*This service is broadcast online and recorded on YouTube.*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST, Rite II

## Prelude

## Hymn 379: "God is Love"

## Opening Prayer

*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.*

## Hymn 180, Verse 1

He is risen, he is risen!  
Tell it out with joyful voice:  
He has burst his three days' prison;  
Let the whole wide world rejoice:  
Death is conquered, we are free,  
Christ has won the victory.

## 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.*

## The Lessons

### The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts:

An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent  
so he didn't open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.  
Who can tell the story of his descendants  
because his life was taken from the earth?*

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 22:24-30**

*The cantor will sing the verses and the choir and congregation will sing the refrain.*

Refrain "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord."

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
    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 before 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 before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;  
    my descendants shall serve him; \*  
    they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
    the saving deeds that he has done.

## **The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

A reading from 1st John:

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.  
*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 376: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

## **The Gospel: John 15:1-8**

*Clergy*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.  
*People*    **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

*Clergy*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*    **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon - The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith**

## **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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Let us give thanks for the victory that Jesus Christ has won by his death and resurrection. It is for us that he triumphed. We offer our prayers in the joy of Christ's resurrection, saying: *Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

Risen Lord, we offer prayers for all members of your holy Church, as we seek to fulfill your mission of hope and reconciliation. May we truly serve you in our vocations and ministry in the world.

*Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

We pray for your guidance to all nations in the way of justice, peace, and truth. Inspire those who hold authority to be mindful of those who live with violence, oppression, war, and generational trauma. May their leadership lead to reconciliation and everlasting peace.

*Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

We pray for compassion for those who suffer from sickness, grief, or turmoil. May they find strength in your presence and your healing power and be restored to health and joy through your gracious light.

*Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

We pray for your compassion and grace to strengthen this community in Christ's self-giving love; give us the grace to live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us.

*Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Alleluia, Christ is risen.*

*The clergy offers special intercessions for those listed on the prayer list. A brief period of silence is provided for the congregation to offer their own petitions.*



The following prayers may be said at this time:

*Prayer for Growing the Congregation*

Lord God, help us to be a welcoming place for visitors and prospective members. Help us to grow and serve your people here and in our broader community. Grant us grace to be the church you mean for us to be. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**

*For Peace Among the Nations (BCP page 816)*

For Peace Among the Nations Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*For Strength and Confidence (BCP page 459)*

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*For an Anniversary*

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for *N.* and *N.* and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger, fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world. **Amen**

*For a Birthday (Prayer 50, BCP page 830)*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Concluding Collect*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.***

*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 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

### Offertory

*To support St. John's ministries please use this QR code or visit our website.*



**At the Offertory, Anthem: ‘We Walk by Faith’** -Henry Alford

**Hymn 380, Verse 3: ‘The Doxology’**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## 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.**

*\*\*\* Words of consecration . . .*

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:

### WLP 858: "Sanctus" *-Buchanan*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel*

*\*\*\* Words of consecration . . .*

... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died**  
**Christ is risen**  
**Christ will come again.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

*\*\*\* Words of consecration . . .*

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.

## **S 146 “Great Amen”** *-Robinson*

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

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: “Bread of Life from Heaven”**

Bread of life from heaven,  
Your blood and body given,  
We eat this bread and drink this cup  
Until you come again.  
(Repeat)

*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.

**During Communion Hymn: “ Give Thanks”**    --*Sheri Rasmussen, Piano*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he’s given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he’s given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say ‘I am strong’,  
let the poor say ‘I am rich’,  
because of what the Lord has done for us;  
and now let the weak say ‘I am strong’,  
let the poor say ‘I am rich’,  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks...

**Post-Communion Prayer** (*BCP 365*)

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

**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.***

## **Blessing**

## **Dismissal**

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

## **Final Hymn 405: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

*After the service, you are invited to enjoy  
coffee and fellowship in the Narthex and Zoom*



# St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith, *Rector*

The Reverend Victoria Mason, *Deacon*

Mr. Cruz Torres, *Seminarian*

Ms. Maria Angie Hernandez, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Philip Riley, *Choirmaster and Organist*

Mr. Alfonso Hernandez, *Spanish Music Leader*

Ms. Noreen McMahan, *Treasurer*

## VESTRY

Mr. Brian McGiverin, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Kevin Flegal, *Junior Warden*

Ms. Mary Cree, *Clerk*

### *Class of 2025*

Kevin Flegal

Patricia Mata

### *Class of 2026*

Carlos Lugo

Henry Welles

### *Class of 2027*

Brian McGiverin

Mary Cree

Sarahi Giron

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**8:30 AM**

**Holy Eucharist Rite I**

**11:00 AM**

**Holy Eucharist Rite II (in person and Zoom)**

**1:00 PM**

**Santa Eucaristía Rito Dos**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX**

**NEW OFFICE HOURS:**

**Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM– 1:00 PM**



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