

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.  
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

### THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.*

**Prelude**                      **Variations on "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness"**                      **J.G. Walther**

*All rise at the sound of the church bell.*

**Hymn 448, standing**                      **O love, how deep, how broad, how high DEUS TUORUM MILITUM**

*Presider*                      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.**

**Canticle 13 S-236**                      *Benedictus es, Domine*                      **J. Rutter**



1. Glo - ry to you, Lord  
God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;  
glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you  
for the ra - di-ance of your ho - ly Name; we will  
praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er.  
3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your  
tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to  
you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -



ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and  
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.  
5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the  
depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to  
you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,  
Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and  
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

*You may be seated.*

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

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.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm is sung by the Choir. Please remain seated.*

**Psalm 22:24-30**      *Deus, Deus meus*

**E. J. Hopkins**

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 Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21**

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.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 513, standing** Like the murmur of the dove's song

**BRIDEGROOM**

**Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8, standing**

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Carol Gadsden**

*Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed, *standing***

**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.**

**Pray for the World and the Church, *standing***

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, Kate our priest; for this gathering and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for those who are poor, sick, hungry, or oppressed, and for those who are in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially, Bill Bevan, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Margie Faulkner, Nancy Gould, Toni H., John Hayes, Brigida Matute, Chris Miller, Marjorie Misch, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Christopher Rogers, and those we now name either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.  
*Silence*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Cynthia Truszak. Pray for those who have died.  
*Silence*

*Intercessor:* I ask your prayers for our St. John's community, Reverend Kate and her family as the discernment process for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia continues in the weeks ahead. We also pray for the other nominees and their congregations. May we all be at peace with the waiting and the eventual results, continue to support one another in community, and share God's good news by word and example.  
*Silence*

*Intercessor:* At this time, you may offer your own intercessions and thanksgivings.  
*Silence*

*Intercessor:* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, 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.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*Presider* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.*

*People* **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.**

*Presider* 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, standing**

*Presider* The peace of the risen Christ be always with you!

*People* **And also with you!**

*Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.

Anthem I am the true vine

P. Aston

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit. I am the vine, 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: continue ye in my love. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A Expansive Language, standing

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Presider 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, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Sanctus S-125

Holy, Holy, Holy

R. Proulx

Musical score for Sanctus S-125 with lyrics: 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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**



The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -'. The second staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1 All' and a second ending bracket labeled '2 Cantor or Choir'. The lyrics for the second staff are 'deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my'. The third staff has the lyrics 'flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them. My'. The fourth staff has the lyrics 'flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.' The music is in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

**The Invitation to Communion**

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.*

**Hymn 304 I come with joy to meet my Lord**

**LAND OF REST**

**Prayer after Communion, standing**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*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.**

**Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested**

*Presider* 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 communion of Christ's body and blood.

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

**The Blessing, standing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn 657, standing Love divine, all loves excelling**

**HYFRYDOL**

## The Dismissal

*Presider* Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

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

**Postlude Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness**

**J.G. Walther**

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### ***Coffee Hour Reception***

*Directly following the service, all are invited to attend coffee hour in the Parish Hall.  
Sandy Loether is hosting.*

### ***Altar Flowers***

*Today's altar flowers are given by Walter Rasmussen and Sharon Craig in celebration of their 27th wedding anniversary.*

### **The Rev. Carol Gadsden**

Born and raised in Syracuse, NY, and now a resident of Essex, the Rev. Carol Gadsden is a cradle Episcopalian who recently celebrated the 38th anniversary of her ordination. Over the years of her ministry, she served congregations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, retiring in 2021 from the Diocese of New York where she was the Rector of St. Thomas, Mamaroneck.

She is married to Linda March, who is a Principal Learning Partner with Harvard Business Publishing. Carol has two adult daughters – Hilary, who lives in Essex with her husband John, and Courtney, who lives in Greenwich with her son Lucas.

*We are blessed to have Carol preside and preach this morning. Thank you, Carol!*

### **Community Conversation: Outreach Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 AM, Undercroft**

An idea is bubbling up from the community. In listening to our Soup Kitchen guests, it has become clear that there are unmet needs that we can provide. We have a room in our church undercroft that isn't being used and an idea for turning it into a place of safety and provision. Mary Bowers and Rev. Kate Wesch recently met with parishioner and long-time Soup Kitchen volunteer Bill Bevan. Bill is on our prayer list and now in hospice care. We told him that we want to name this new outreach initiative in his honor. Bill doesn't have much to say these days, but he smiled and said, "I'd sure like to come with you."

Please join this exciting conversation as we figure out next steps for making this idea a reality. **\*A light lunch will be served. Please sign-up in the Narthex to bring a dish or contact the Parish Office for Meghan Wrinn at [meghan@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:meghan@stjohnsessex.org).**

**Taizé Service | Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM in the Church**

Thursday, May 8th, marks Ascension Day in our liturgical calendar. This evening we will have a special worship service in the style of Taizé at 7 PM. Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay) is a prayerful form of worship noted for its simple yet rich and meditative character. The Taizé worship tradition finds its roots in the ecumenical French monastic community of Taizé, founded in 1940. This ecumenical community receives visitors from across the globe of many denominations and seeks to unite all forms of Christianity. The Taizé service is a contemplative worship experience of meditation, reflection, liturgical readings, and music. There is no preaching, and the experience comes alive through the active participation of all assembled by focusing and deepening our faith through the power of prayer.

The heart of the body of music offered at this service often takes the form of ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and aims to center prayer. Simple in nature, Taizé music is designed to move our prayer from the head to the heart. If you have worshiped at a Sunday evening service at St. John's, you have likely experienced one of these short chants. This service provides time to get away from our busy week and experience the contemplative and quieting power of prayer.

**Visio Divina with *The Saint John's Bible*  
Saturday, May 18, from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Parish Hall**

You are invited to spend time with The Saint John's Bible to meditate, to create, to learn, to enjoy the art and the beauty of the illuminations and calligraphy. All are welcome and encouraged to drop in at any time throughout this offering.

**St. John's Remembers  
Deadline: Sunday, May 12**

Every Memorial Weekend Sunday, St. John's pauses to remember those who died while serving our country, as well as those who served and have since passed away. Everyone is invited to participate in this remembrance.

To help us continue to update our list, please provide Marlene Going with the names and military branches of any deceased family members who served but haven't been listed. Indicate if they passed away since last Memorial Day ("Yes" or "No") on the card. Please fill out a card in the narthex or email Marlene at (mjgosxct@gmail.com). Optionally include the

**About the Vestry  
2024 Vestry Minutes Available**

Did you know that the actions of the vestry are public? In an effort to communicate with even more transparency, the minutes of vestry meetings will now be posted in the Parish Hall for anyone to read once they are approved.

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**CLERGY & PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*

[kate@stjohnsessex.org](mailto:kate@stjohnsessex.org) / 860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Priest Associate*

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*

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Manuel Matute, *Sexton*

Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

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**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS**

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*

Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*

Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*

Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

Nat Eddy, *Outreach Committee*

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**VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS**

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*

Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*

Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*

Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*

Shawn Honan, *Investment Oversight Committee*

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**VESTRY** Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy, Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh

**WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES**

**SUNDAYS** | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 AM

“Come As You Are” Worship Service — 5 PM

**TUESDAYS** | Bible Study, *Parish Hall* — 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

**THURSDAYS** | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM

**WEDNESDAYS** | Morning Prayer — 10:00 AM

**ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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