



St. John's Episcopal Church
New City, New York

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:30 am

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude *Offertoire by Leon Boellmann*

Opening Hymn *Holy God we praise thy Name (Hymnal #366)*

- 1 Holy God, we praise thy Name,
Lord of all, we bow before thee;
all on earth thy scepter claim,
all in heaven above adore thee;
infinite thy vast domain,
everlasting is thy reign.

- 2 Hark, the loud celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord:
holy, holy, holy Lord!

- 3 Lo, the apostolic train
join, thy sacred Name to hallow;
prophets swell the loud refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and, from morn till set of sun,
through the Church the song goes on.

- 4 Holy Father, holy Son,
 Holy Spirit, Three we name thee,
 while in essence only One,
 undivided God we claim thee;
 then, adoring, bend the knee
 and confess the mystery.
- 5 Christ, thou art our glorious King,
 Son of God enthroned in splendor;
 but deliverance to bring
 thou all honors didst surrender,
 and wast of a virgin born
 humbly on that blessed morn.
- 6 Thou didst take the sting from death,
 Son of God, as Savior given;
 on the cross thy dying breath
 opened wide the realm of heaven.
 In the glory of that land
 thou art set at God's right hand.
- 7 As our judge thou wilt appear.
 Savior, who hast died to win us,
 help thy servants, drawing near.
 Lord, renew our hearts within us.
 Grant that with thy saints we may
 dwell in everlasting day.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Collect for Purity

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.*

Gloria *Hymnal - #S-278*

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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 Reading Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

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.

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from First John

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.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn *Praise the Lord through every nation (Hymnal #484)*

- 1 Praise the Lord through every nation;
his holy arm hath wrought salvation;
exalt him on his Father's throne.
Praise your King, ye Christian legions,
who now prepares in heavenly regions
unfailing mansions for his own:
with voice and minstrelsy
extol his majesty:
Alleluia!
His praise shall sound all nature round,
and hymns on every tongue abound.

2 Jesus, Lord, our Captain glorious,
o'er sin, and death, and hell victorious,
wisdom and might to thee belong:
we confess, proclaim, adore thee;
we bow the knee, we fall before thee;
thy love henceforth shall be our song.
The cross meanwhile we bear,
the crown erelong to wear:
Alleluia!
Thy reign extend world without end;
let praise from all to thee ascend.

The Gospel John 15:1-8

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."

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

The Sermon

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 Form 3

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop; for our Bishops: Matthew, Allen, and Mary; for the next priest to serve St. John's, and all bishops priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Remembering _____, we praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The Offertory Anthem *I, the Lord of sea and sky by DL Schutte*

The Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow (Hymnal #380 v. 3)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem (*Agnus Dei*) *Hymnal* S-161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life (Hymnal #487)

- 1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
 such a way as gives us breath;
 such a truth as ends all strife;
 such a life as killeth death.

- 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
 such a light as shows a feast;
 such a feast as mends in length;
 such a strength as makes his guest.

- 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
 such a joy as none can move;
 such a love as none can part;
 such a heart as joys in love.

Bless now (Voices Found #142)

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
 that all your people make,
 the path through noise and silence,
 the way of give and take.
 The trail is found in desert
 and winds the mountain round,
 then leads beside still waters,
 the road where faith is found.

- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
 who share this winding way,
 whose hope burns through the terrors,
 whose love sustains the day.
 We yearn for holy freedom
 while often we are bound.
 Together we are seeking
 the road where faith is found.

- 3 Divine Eternal Lover,
 You meet us on the road.
 We wait for land of promise
 where milk and honey flow.
 But waiting not for places,
 You meet us all around.
 Our covenant is written
 on roads, as faith is found.

The Postcommunion Prayer

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 Blessing

Closing Hymn *Christ is made the sure foundation (Hymnal #518)*

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.
- 2 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.
- 3 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.
- 4 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude *Es woll' uns Gott genaedig sein. by J. Pachelbel*

Our mission statement:
*Open doors, open hearts,
for all to experience the Love of God*

Serving this week

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. Michael Watson
Eucharistic Minister	Rosa Adotey
Organist	Bert Carrasquero
Cantor	Sarah Mistele
Tech Minister	Dong Zhang
First Reading	Margaret Gillespie
Psalm	Rosa Adotey
Second Reading	Lynn Knowles
Prayers of the People	Roland Stalzer
Usher	Roland Stalzer
Altar Guild	

Wardens

Scott Dow, Senior Warden
Dong Zhang, Junior Warden

The Vestry

Barbara Ayew
Terry Deasy
Sarah Mistele
Benedicta Obuamah
Valerie Powers
Bob Schugmann

Staff

Margaret Gillespie, Parish Administrator
Jacob Greenberg, Sexton
Bert Carrasquero, Organist and Choir Director

St. John's Episcopal Church

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