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# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
*May 2, 2021*

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*The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, Preacher & Celebrant*

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Welcome: Whatever your background and however you have come to be here, we welcome you. It is our prayer that you will encounter God's peace this morning. If you're new to our community, or if you have questions or other needs, please ask. There's no such thing as a stupid question. We've all been new at some point, and as the old adage goes, "we're all just walking each other home" one step at a time.

About Our Worship: This service may look and feel different than that which you have previously experienced.

As Christians in the Episcopal (episcopal=church with bishops) tradition, our worship is rooted in Holy Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which—for centuries—has united Christians all over the world in a common language of prayer and worship. These prayers have been used for hundreds of years by people all over the world, and are still used today. The hope of finding ourselves in the midst of this ancient tradition is that we might both learn from those who have come before, and add our own voices to the heavenly chorus. Our liturgy (the work of the people in worship) helps us when our words fail, ensures that we hear a thorough account of God's Word, and invites us to add our own voices and experience to God's story." The liturgy makes worship something the whole community does, not just the minister up front. Who we are and what we bring is enough because we are assured that God delights in our worship! You will find some people kneeling, bowing, and making the sign of the cross as expressions of devotion and blessing. This is neither requisite nor uniform, and we invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

**As an act of care for yourself and all those gathered, please maintain appropriate physical distance at all times. Masks must be worn by all those above the age of two.** We will not be passing an offering plate, though there is an offering box available for use on the Welcome Table.

## OPENING HYMN

## How firm a foundation

vv. 1,2

*Descant*

5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,  
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!

5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;  
1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

5 soul to shake, no,  
1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,



5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Celebrant*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*

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

Praise the God of all creation.

**God has given us new life and hope. God has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as God's own.

**God has brought us out of darkness. God has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray. Almighty God

*People*

**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.**

*Antiphon*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

1 blood set us free — to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]

*Final Antiphon*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Christ of the new covenant,  
 give us the happiness to share,  
 with full measure, pressed down,  
 shaken together and running over,  
 all that you give us.  
 Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

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.**

- <sup>24</sup> My praise is of you in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.
- <sup>25</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek you shall praise you: \***  
**"May your heart live for ever!"**
- <sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
- <sup>27</sup> **For yours is the royal power, O GOD; \***  
**you rule over the nations.**
- <sup>28</sup> To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before you.
- <sup>29</sup> **My soul shall live for you;  
my descendants shall serve you; \***  
**they shall be known as yours for ever.**
- <sup>30</sup> They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that you have done.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

Deacon      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

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Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

*The Nicene Creed, the Church's central statement of faith, emerged out of the first four councils of the Church in the 4th century in response to controversies about Jesus' divinity. The Latin root of the phrase "we believe" (credo) means to "give one's heart." The creed is our way of affirming who is deserving of our heart amidst fear and doubt. The term apostolic refers to the historic succession of the apostles (original leaders of the early church) through our bishops. The term "catholic" refers to the universal church throughout the world.*

Celebrant        Let us affirm our faith in the One, holy, and living God:  
All                **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.**



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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Laurie Jaffe (*Zoom*)  
Zach Bryant (*Outdoor*)

### *Intercessor*

We give you thanks for those who offer their best as leaders of your people—for our bishops, priests, and deacons. Pray for those who carry out your mission under their leadership. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Monica and St. James, DC. Pray for God's Church.

*Silence*

We offer our prayers for the leaders of our nation—for our president, Joe, our governor, Larry, Congress, and the courts of this land. Give them courage and wisdom and a heart for justice.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

We pray for those who suffer from hunger, in poverty, in the wake of violent storms, after earthquakes. Sustain them in their struggles and give them hope. We are thankful for compassionate people who answer their call for help.

Pray for those who suffer around the world.

*Silence*

We pray for those who are ill, including for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying, including Greg Rumpf, close friend of Frank Pilato, and those who stand beside them as they find their way home.

We lift up **Mother Maria, Sewell, Cheryl, Barbara, Brooke, Joan, Gail, George, Re-Gathering Team, Sally, Donna, Diane, Jack, Joyce, Rodgers, Shauna, Margaret, Tom, Rev. Larry, George, Mary Anne, Wanda, Carl, Jim, Sheila, Carly, and Art.**

Pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.

*Silence*

*Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

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*(In-person service only)*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING :**

*Celebrant* God 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have sent your Son as the Savior of the world and your Spirit to graft us into the vine of life.

We give thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, whose perfect love casts out our fear, and in whom we live, like branches of a vine, drawing our life from him that we might bear much fruit to your glory.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we proclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all 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 is coming again!**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

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

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*(Online Service Only)*

## **HOLY THANKSGIVING**

*Officiant*      Though we cannot be together in person to celebrate Holy Communion, God's presence is with us. Let us pray in gratitude and trust for the Spirit flowing through this gathering:

*People*      **God of Love, we thank you for bringing us together in this place, on this day to honor and to celebrate you and your People, the living, loving Body of Christ. Jesus told his disciples, "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Bless this gathering as a sacramental rite, a visible sign of your love for us, and our love for one another. Even in the absence of the bread and the wine, feed and fill us with your Son Jesus Christ. In faith and thanksgiving, we pray. Amen.**

*(In-person service only)*

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*As an act of adoration, a moment of reverent silence is kept as the bread is broken. This symbolizes the breaking of Jesus' own body.*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Upon the presentation of the consecrated elements,*

Behold you are: **may we become what we receive.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

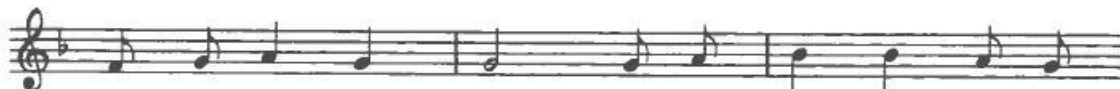
*All those who are baptized, as well as those who yearn to be fed with Christ's grace, are welcome at this table. You need not be an Episcopalian to feast here. The Celebrant will bring the bread to your seat. Please stand to receive the consecrated bread.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Like the murmur of the dove's song*



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the



chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the  
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -  
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and



wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger  
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and  
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -



might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.  
pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

*(in-person service only)*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & MILESTONE BLESSINGS

### PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and

grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### CLOSING HYMN

*When in our music God is glorified*

vv. 1,4



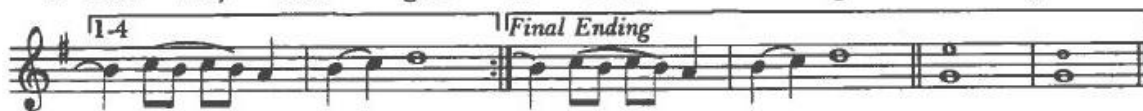
1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri fied, \_\_\_\_\_  
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found \_\_\_\_\_  
3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song, \_\_\_\_\_  
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! \_\_\_\_\_



1 and a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride, \_\_\_\_\_  
2 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound, \_\_\_\_\_  
3 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, \_\_\_\_\_  
4 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light? \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise! \_\_\_\_\_



1 it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried \_\_\_\_\_  
2 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found \_\_\_\_\_  
3 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue, \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, \_\_\_\_\_  
5 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways \_\_\_\_\_



— Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

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## POSTLUDE

*Allegro Moderato*

Peeters

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## THIS WEEK

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### Questions for Reflection

What is your deepest desire? Jesus says that “whatever you wish . . . it will be done for you” (John 15:7). Spend time in the next days asking yourself at evermore profound levels what you most devoutly wish for in this life and the next. Then ask for it.

### Household Prayer: Morning

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through the hours. I thank you for the breath and strength I have, and I beg your help that I may use my powers wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet. Let my questions today be a form of pruning to bring forth in me new understandings, healing, and good fruit; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Sweet Jesus, in this night of rest, heal my broken places and restore my faith. You are my vine; only in you am I strong enough to face the darkness of this world. I thank you for the safety of my home and pray for those who have no bed tonight. Make me grateful, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

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