



# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:30 A.M.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn 182: "Christ is alive! Let Christians sing"**

*Truro*

*Due to COVID protocols, the hymns today will be sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now and conquer every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior with the Father reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns through this and every future age,  
till all creation lives and learns his joy, his justice, love and praise.

## The Word of God

### The Easter Acclamation

*Bishop*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*

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

There is one Body and one Spirit;

**There is one hope in God's call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**One God and Father of all.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

## 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.**

## The Lessons

### The First Reading: Acts 8:26—40

*Commentary:*

*After the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (see Acts 7), a great persecution broke out against the Jerusalem church and believers were scattered throughout the region. Since leaving Jerusalem, Philip had enjoyed a fruitful ministry in Samaria, but now God sent him into the desert, where he met an Ethiopian official who had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship God. Philip recognized what the Ethiopian was reading and struck up a conversation with him. Then, Philip explained how Jesus had fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of the Suffering Servant. In that desert place, the Spirit of God used the Word of God through a man of God to bring salvation to a child of God.*

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

My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

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

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

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

"May your heart live for ever!"

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

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*

he rules over the nations.

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

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; \*

they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

They shall come and make known to a  
people yet unborn \*

the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Epistle: 1 John 4:7–21

*Commentary:*

*The theme of this passage, sincere Christian love, is central to John's epistle. Christians love as a response to God's own love and to His loving activity in Christ and in the church. All God's activity is loving: if God creates, He creates in love; if God judges, He judges in love. All that God does is the manifestation of His nature, which is love. The proof of God's love for people is that He sent His Son to provide eternal life for us. That demonstration of God's love is our model for showing selfless love to others. As believers love one another, the invisible God is made known to the world, and love for the unseen God finds expression in love for one another.*

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.**

## Hymn: "Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found"

*Land of Rest*

*Sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1–8)

*Priest* 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.”

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

## Sermon

The Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving,  
Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina

## Hymn 297: “Descend, O Spirit, purging flame”

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

*Sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

Descend, O Spirit, purging flame, brand us this day with Jesus' Name!  
Confirm our faith, consume our doubt; sign us as Christ's, within, without.

Forbid us not this second birth; grant unto us the greater worth!  
Enlist us in your service, Lord; baptize all nations with your Word.

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*The Bishop says*

The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present these persons for Confirmation.

*or* I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop*

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*The Bishop then says*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

*Bishop* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

*Bishop* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Bishop* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **For Confirmation**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her* for your service; and sustain *him/her* all the days of *his/her* life. **Amen.**

### **For Reception**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory Anthem**

*Beach Spring (from Sacred Harp)  
arr. John Sullivan*

*Sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

Hark! ten thousand voices sounding far and wide throughout the sky;  
'tis the voice of joy abounding, Jesus lives, no more to die:  
Jesus lives, his conflict over, lives to claim his great reward;  
angels round the victor hover, crowding to behold their Lord.

Yonder throne for him erected now becomes the victor's seat;  
lo, the man on earth rejected angels worship at his feet!  
All the powers of heaven adore him, all obey his sovereign word;  
day and night they cry before him, "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

*Thomas Kelly*

## The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.**

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.**

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,

**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.**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### **The Communion of the People**

*(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)*

### **Music at Communion**

*Sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

### **Hymn 487: "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"**

*The Call*

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.

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.

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.

*George Herbert*

**Hymn 513: “Like the murmur of the dove’s song”**

*Bridegroom*

Like the murmur of the dove’s song, like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigor of the wind’s rush, like the new flame’s eager might:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ’s Body, to the branches of the Vine,  
to the Church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.

**The Postcommunion Prayer**

*Priest and People*

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*Sung by appointed singers in the choir loft; the congregation is invited to listen.*

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed;  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light,  
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

### **The Dismissal**

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

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

### **Postlude**



Celebrant & Preacher

*The Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina*

Assisting

*The Reverend Michael Singer, Priest-in-Charge*

*The Reverend Chris Hamby, Associate Rector*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in honor of  
Edward Lee Ward, Dorothy C. Davis, Robert T. Davis, Lynn W. Pollock, and Adelaide S. Ward*

**CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION**

CANDIDATE FOR CONFIRMATION

Erin Tharpe Becker  
Stuart McDowell Hardy  
David Burton Lee

CANDIDATE FOR RECEPTION

Gregory Frank Schimizzi  
William C. Tallman, Jr.

# ST. JAMES PARISH

• ESTABLISHED 1729 •

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**Associate Rector** The Rev. Chris Hamby | **Associate Rector** The Rev. Cheryl Brainard  
**Organist/Choirmaster** John Sullivan  
**Facilities Administrator** Bill McKenzie | **Parish Coordinator** Suzanne Adams  
**Finance Administrator** Maria Hollopeter  
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**Day School Director** Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker  
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## ST. JAMES PARISH

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