



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

9:00 A.M.

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

Easter Acclamation

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.**

Song of Praise

Nettleton

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

Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him; praise him angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious never shall his promise fail;
God hath made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his Name.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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.**

A reading from 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.**

Psalms 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.

A reading from 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)

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

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

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

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

The response to each petition:

Risen Lord... **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Celebrant 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.)

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

The Call

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

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.

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

Hymn: “Lord, whose love through humble service”

Hyfrydol

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.**



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 loving memory of
Edward Lee Ward, Dorothy C. Davis, Robert T. Davis,
Lynn W. Pollock, Adelaide S. Ward.*

ST. JAMES PARISH

• ESTABLISHED 1729 •

STAFF

Priest-In-Charge The Rev. Michael Singer

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

Youth Minister Cookie Cantwell | **Children's Ministries** Shannon Lockamy

Day School Director Amy Taylor | **Communications Director** Erin Becker

Registrar Marybeth Tallman | **Property & Maintenance Manager** Wes Clewis

Sexton Joey Dobson

VESTRY

Senior Warden Steve Thomas

Junior Warden Jane Martin

Treasurer Mike Brown | **Clerk** Diane MacAskill

Class 2021 | Watson Barnes | Pem Jenkins | Jane Martin | Jim Spruill

Class 2022 | Caroline Cone | Berta Hamilton | Brian McMerty | Steve Thomas

Class 2023 | Kay Dougherty | Tom Hackler | Leslie Jarrett | Al Marr

ST. JAMES PARISH

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ parish@stjamesp.org

 @stjamesp  @stjamesparish

STJAMESP.ORG