



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINTS JAMES AND ANDREW

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
In-Person and Live-streamed

Welcome to the Season of Easter

Welcome to Worship! We are blessed by your presence with us today. In celebrating the resurrection and Christ's presence with the disciples, throughout this Easter we open ourselves to the new life which God offers us.

Our liturgy is drawn primarily from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship 1 & 2. We also frequently make use of other approved worship resources from elsewhere within the Anglican Communion, such as the Church of England, Scottish Episcopal Church, Anglican Church of Canada, and the Anglican Church in New Zealand, as well as Eucharistic Prayers and Prayers of the People which correlate to the Revised Common Lectionary. We believe that the use of fresh language provides us the opportunity to broaden and deepen our relationship with God. Our music is drawn primarily from the Hymnal 1982, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and other approved hymnals. All materials are printed with permission using RiteSeries.

Please note that our worship is live-streamed to Facebook.

Our Mission

We believe God is calling us to cultivate a community of love, joy, hope, and healing. Jesus is our model for a life of faith, compassion, hospitality and service. We strive to be affirming and accessible, welcoming and inclusive; we seek to promote reconciliation, exercise responsible stewardship, and embrace ancient traditions for modern lives.

Prelude

Chosen Tune [1917]

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Welcome

The Rev. Heather J. Blais

Ringling for Remembrance

There have been 5013 gun related deaths this year, of which 1538 have taken place since we reported last month. There have been 122 mass shootings so far this year. This data was taken from the Gun Violence Archive on April 23, 2024.

The Hymnal 1982 - #304

I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord

Land of Rest

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ 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

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.

Collects

God be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Karen Whelan-Berry

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.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30



© 1978, James Frazier.

- 24 My praise is of you in the great as-sembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who **worship** you.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, /
and those who seek you shall **praise** you: *
“May your heart live for **ever!**”
- =
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to **you**, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow **be-fore** you.
- 27 For yours is the royal power, O **God**; *
you rule over the **nations**.
- =

28 To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in **worship**; *
all who go down to the dust fall be-**fore** you.

29 My soul shall live for you; /
my descendants shall **serve** you; *
they shall be known as yours for **ever**.

-

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet un-**born** *
the saving deeds that you have **done**.

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Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Kevin Hollister

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.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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.

Sermon

Silence for Reflection

The Nicene Creed

Andy Levchuk

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

The Prayers of the People

David Sund

Jesus, you are the vine and we are your branches.
Keep us abiding in your life and love.
Prune and tend your Church that it may bear fruitful disciples of your grace.
Risen Lord,
Fill our hearts with Easter joy.

Jesus, the Ethiopian official sought to understand your good news.
Expand the hearts and minds of all in authority to pursue truth and justice.
Bring reason for all people to rejoice.
Risen Lord,
Fill our hearts with Easter joy.

Jesus your love sets our hearts ablaze.
Open the hearts of all people to reflect this love in ways that nurture and foster growth.
Strengthen all who support parenting and provide guidance for the young.
Risen Lord,
Fill our hearts with Easter joy.

Jesus your love precedes us and we respond with adoration and praise.
Give to all who are suffering grace to receive this affection, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Shel, Kathy, June, Gerda, Linda, Rich, Carolyn, Tim, Sharon, Liam, Sheldon, Suzanne, Amoy, Errol, Katie, Annie, Gordon, Kirsten, Ed, and Ann Wood who will receive a visit from our Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We give thanks for the ministry of the Prayer Circle. At this time, I invite your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession either silently, aloud, or in the comment section of our virtual worship.

Silence

Risen Lord,
Fill our hearts with Easter joy.

Jesus, we are made for your love.
Remember your children.
May we all come to abide with you forever.
Risen Lord,
Fill our hearts with Easter joy. Amen.

(Source: Intercessions for Years A, B, and C by Ian Black, adapted for use at S3J-A)

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

Having received God's word of hope and new life, we share a sign of God's peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

Offering

To donate online: Text "Give" (978) 525-0712

Offertory Anthem

My Eyes for Beauty Pine [1928]

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddës grace:
No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:
'tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart, that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

The Preparation of the Gifts

All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D, The Book of Common Prayer, p. 372

The Lord be with you.

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 God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever...

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

The Hymnal 1982 - S125

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord: Sanctus

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.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues...

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues...

... Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Spiritual Communion

Please join us for a moment of quiet, and then we invite those worshiping at home and any moved to pray with them in solidarity to join in the prayer for spiritual communion.

Silence

Let us pray:

Living God, holy Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We who do not receive the sacrament of bread and wine today long for your spiritual presence, that we may be strengthened by your grace, and that we may draw ever-closer to you and to one another. We pray you, come into our hearts, that we may live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Invitation & Distribution of Communion

All are invited to come forward to receive communion, or a blessing from the clergy. If you wish for gluten free wafer, please tell the clergy.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us give thanks for this meal:

**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 forever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Announcements *(see back pages)*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

Dismissal

This service has ended. Now let ours begin.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Sonatina for Organ: IV. Allegretto

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

Prayer List

Names are on the list for 6 weeks, then removed. Feel free to add a name again.

Shel, Kathy, June, Gerda, Linda, Rich, Carolyn, Tim, Sharon, Liam, Sheldon, Suzanne, Amoy, Errol, Katie, Annie, Gordon, Kirsten, and Ed.

Announcements

Today at 12 p.m. - Authentic Selves Display & Panel

On April 28 at noon, a celebration of Authentic Selves and diversity in our community will take place at Sts J&A, kicked off by a panel discussion with clergy and guest speakers. A photographic exhibit from the book *Authentic Selves* will be on display for a couple of weeks. And we will hear more about Rev Pickett's plans to start an LGBTQ+ support group in our parish.

Today - Ringing for Remembrance:

We grieve the continuing epidemic of gun violence in our country. On the last Sunday of each month we will remember the victims of gun violence. The celebrant will begin the service by sharing the number of persons lost to gun violence so far that month (using data collected by the [Gun Violence Archive](#)), and we will toll the bell for one minute as we remember, grieve, and pray. For a more active response to the reality of gun violence, we encourage you to [sign up with The Episcopal Public Policy Network](#) to receive emailed emailing us 'action alerts', directions for encouraging our congressional representatives to take specific positions on legislation involving social justice issues.

Wednesday Worship Opportunities

Join Audley Robinson on Wednesdays at 6:15 a.m. for Morning Prayer on [Facebook](#).

Join Rev. Jimmy in the chapel on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for worship, followed by a coffee hour.

Rev. Heather away April 30 - May 13

Rev. Heather will be away for continuing education and retreat from April 30 - May 13. For pastoral emergencies, call (413) 773-3925 and our answer serving will connect you to the appropriate person.

May 11 at 12 p.m. - Green Team Forest Bathing Event

Family Event: Forest Bathing at the Green River Swimming & Recreation Area in Greenfield. Noon on Saturday, May 11 with a rain date of Sunday, May 19. Wisty Rorabacher will be leading a walk to look at wildflowers and plants in the area. Bring your lunch and snacks: there are picnic tables and a sandy area for children to dig in. We will be having a scavenger hunt for children.

May 19 (Sunday) at 5 p.m. - Children and Families Gathering

Families with little ones, please join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month for an evening of food, formation, and fun. We will gather for a potluck in the Whiteman room, have a short time for formation and prayer, and then enjoy some fun together. Please reach out to Rev. Jimmy if you have any questions at JPickett@vts.edu. Future gathering dates:, June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15.

Prepaid Grocery Card Fundraiser

We are selling Big Y and Stop & Shop gift cards to raise much needed funds for mission and outreach programs. Purchase prepaid cards for your grocery needs after church in the Narthex or from the office during office hours. Please call 413-773-3925 or email office@saintsjamesandandrew.org. We can mail them to you, if needed!

Large Grocery Bags for Outreach Ministries

Your contributions have been much appreciated; please keep them coming. We need LARGE paper grocery bags. You can leave them in the church narthex, near the office, or near the elevator in the parish hall building. Thank you!! Maggie Sweeney, for the Mission Team

The Episcopal Church of Ss. James & Andrew

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Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop

The Rev. Heather J. Blais, Rector

The Rev. Jimmy Pickett, Missioner

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Closed Holidays)