



THE FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
APRIL 28, 2024  
10:00 AM

*A warm welcome to all who come to worship at St. John's this day. We are glad you are here! If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card found in the pew and place in the offering plate.*

*There is no wrong way to worship. The people's responses are in bold and instructions for sitting, standing, and kneeling are in italics. We invite you to participate in the way that feels most comfortable and authentic to you.*

**Prelude**

*Meditation*

Cécile Chaminade

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn 296**

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*      *Sung by all*

*Engelberg*

Celebrant      Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

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

Celebrant      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.**

**Hymn S280**

*Gloria*

(see insert)

*Sung by all*

*Powell*

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant      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.**

*The people are seated.*

## **The First Lesson**

*Acts 8:26-40*

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

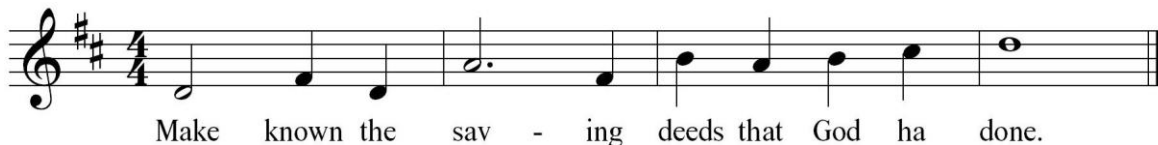
<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

Lector            The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 2:24-30**

*Antiphon sung by all.*



<sup>24</sup>My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

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

<sup>25</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

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

“May your heart live for ever!”

**Antiphon**

<sup>26</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*

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

<sup>27</sup>For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*

he rules over the nations.

<sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**Antiphon**

<sup>29</sup>My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

<sup>30</sup>They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**Antiphon**

## **The Second Lesson**

*1 John 4:7-21*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector           The Word of the Lord.

**People           Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

## **Sequence Hymn 323, verse 1**

*Bread of heaven on thee we feed*

*Sung by all.*

*Jesu, Jesu*

## **The Gospel**

*John 15:1-8*

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

**People           Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Celebrant      The Gospel of the Lord.

People        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sequence Hymn 323, verse 2**

*Bread of heaven on thee we feed*

*Sung by all.*

*Jesu, Jesu*

*The people are seated.*

## **The Sermon**

*The people stand as able.*

## **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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Lector      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.

People      **We pray for God’s church.**

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

People      **We pray for justice and peace.**

Lector      We pray for mercy 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.

People      **We pray for those who suffer around the world.**

Lector We pray for those who are ill, for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying and those who stand beside them as they find their way home.

**People We pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.**

Lector We pray for those who have died.

**People Our hearts are full this day, Lord, as we embrace new life in you. We give you thanks for the gift of song and joyful spirits.**

Celebrant Risen Christ, we thank you for the blessings of this life and humbly offer up these prayers as manifestation of our undying faith in you. Receive them as praise and fill our hearts with knowledge and love of you. In the joy of the resurrection, we pray. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are seated.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## **The Offertory**

*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, and shared in the peace, we now prepare ourselves for the gift of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, both in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. Here at St. John's, it is tradition that people stand as the elements are brought forward and are seated once the bread and wine are on the altar.*

## **Offertory Anthem**

*Have thine own way Lord*

Austin Lovelace

## **Doxology**

*Hymn 380, verse 3*

*Sung by all.*

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

**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**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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 in praise you for 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:

**Together**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hea - ven and earth are full \_\_\_\_\_ full \_\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Celebrant**

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:

**Together**

**Christ has died.  
 Christ is risen.  
 Christ will come again.**

**Celebrant**

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 our 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 forever.

**People**

**AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

## Fraction Anthem

*Sung by all.*

5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver  
7 is sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia

## The Invitation to Holy Communion

*The people are seated.*

*Please move at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the priest. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.*

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. While we believe that it is most meaningful when done as a baptized Christian, no one will ever be turned away from God's table.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Together** **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 people stand as able.*

## **The Blessing**

### **Closing Hymn 344**

*Lord dismiss us with thy blessing*

*Sung by all.*

*Scilian Mariners*

## **The Dismissal**

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

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

## **The Postlude**

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