



THE SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER
MAY 5, 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

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 400

All creatures of our God and King – Verses 1,4,5 &7

Sung by all

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

Sung by all

Powell

5 1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

9 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al -

13 might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

18 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord

22 God, Lamb of God. 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have

27 mer - cy on us; 5. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -

32 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

36 Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

36 Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

The First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 2:24-30

Antiphon sung by all.



Shout with joy — to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, re-joyce and sing.

¹Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

²With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

Antiphon

³The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Antiphon

⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

Antiphon

⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Antiphon

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 348, verses 1 & 2

Lord, we have come at your own invitation

Sung by all.

Antiphoner

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn 348, verses 3 & 4

Lord, we have come at your own invitation

Sung by all.

Antiphoner

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 pray for your faithful people and our leaders, that your love may be the foundation of their common lives and at the heart of their ministry.
- People Teach us to abide in your love.**
- Lector We pray for your world filled with creatures and spectacular plant life and grandeur beyond words.
- People Teach us to care for it with love.**
- Lector We pray for the peoples of the world and honor them as those you have made and cherish.
- People Teach us to reach out to them with respect and love.**
- Lector We pray for healing for those among us who are ailing, aching, or anxious:
- People Teach us to respond to their needs with love.**
- Lector We pray for those who are at the end of their earthly lives, and for those who have recently entered eternal life.
- People Teach us to remember them with love.**
- Celebrant Uphold us by the riches of your grace, loving God. May your lessons of love continue to inspire and guide us as we move through this world and into the next. **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

Doxology

Hymn 380, verse 3

Sung by all.

Old 100th

**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.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver
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. Wine is also available. Intinction (dipping of wafer into the cup of wine) by the congregation is not allowed. If you prefer not to drink from the cup, the priest can dip the wafer for you; simply indicate this desire by placing your palms together. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. 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 705

As those of old their first fruits brought

Sung by all.

Forest Green

The Dismissal

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

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

The Postlude

*All liturgical materials printed in this bulletin are printed under license
from either Rite Planning or CCLI #1994456.*

*St. John's Episcopal Church
12201 Richmond Street
Chester, Virginia 23831
(804) 748-2182
Stjohnschester.com*