

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

The People's responses are in bold.

Gathering Music *Aria* by Elizabeth Turner (b. unknown – 1756)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. **Al - le - lu - ia.**

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)
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Opening Collect

O God of love, you are the true sun of the world, evermore risen and never going down: We pray you to shine in our hearts and drive away the darkness of sin and the mist of error. We pray that we may this day and all our lives long, walk without stumbling in the way you have prepared for us, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

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

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)
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The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you graft us on to Christ, the true vine, and, with tireless care, you nurture our growth in knowledge and reverence. Tend the vineyard of your Church, that in Christ each branch may bring forth to the glory of your name abundant fruits of faith and love. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson *Acts 8:26-40*

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 8/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

setting: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The Gospel *John 15:1-8*

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

Glory to you, O 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, O Christ.

The People repeat the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Affirmation of Faith

During the season of Eastertide we will be using the Affirmation of Faith (creed) from one of our sister churches in the Anglican Communion, the Church of New Zealand. The prayers of this branch of the church are beloved throughout the Communion for their simple, direct, and creation-centered language in liturgy.

**You O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love to us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

Prayers of the People

During the silences, please offer your own prayers and petitions aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The intercessor says

Loving God, in this season of new life, we pray:

For reconciliation between the violated and the violent,
That we may rest in your peace.

For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere,
That we may share the abundance of your creation.

For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,
That we may shape our common life as your kingdom.

For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,
That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.

For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,
That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.

For all the joys and concerns of our hearts,
That we may live with gladness and trust.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high. Increase our love for one another, that both in name and in truth we may be disciples of your risen Lord Jesus, and so reflect by our lives the glory that is yours. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your generous support!



The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

Hymn at the Offertory

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts and voic - es heaven-ward raise:
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,
3 Christ is ris - en, Christ, the first-fruits of the ho - ly har - vest - field,

1 sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
2 glor - ious life, and life im - mor - tal, on his re - sur - rec - tion morn.
3 which with all its full a - bun-dance at his sec - ond com - ing yield:

1 He, who on the cross a vic - tim, for the world's sal - va - tion bled,
2 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by his might - y en - ter - prise:
3 then the gold - en ears of har - vest will their heads be - fore him wave,

1 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
2 we with him to life e - ter - nal by his re - sur - rec - tion rise.
3 ri - pened by his glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.

words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt.
music: *Lux eoi*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

The Great Thanksgiving

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 indeed our joy to give thanks and praise to you, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and sky and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus



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.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

setting: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
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The Celebrant continues

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, you have filled all creation with light and life. In great love you sent to us Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast with your presence and raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall - owed be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

The Communion

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)

Anthem at the Communion *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

words: Antiphon for Footwashing on Maundy Thursday
music: Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

The Prayer after Communion

The People join the Celebrant for the final part of the prayer, in bold.

Ever-living God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and revealed the way to life in his name. Dying and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

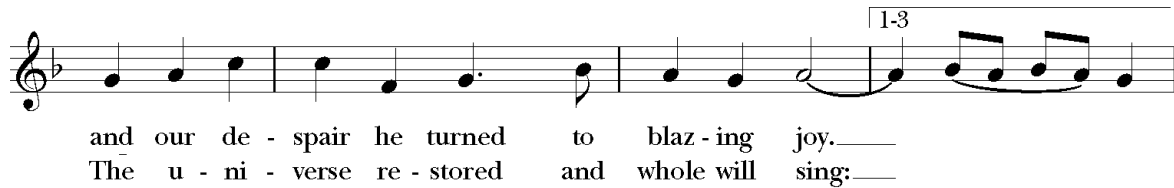
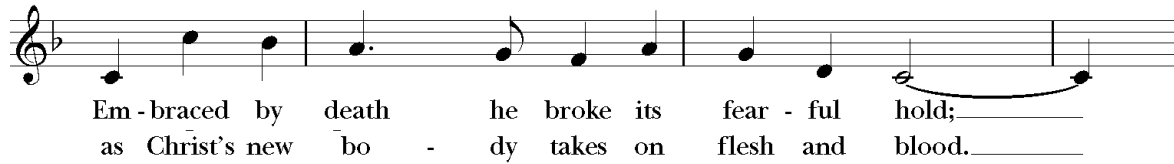
Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

The Blessing

The wonder and wildness of God, who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel.

And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn



words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt.
music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)
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The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude *Gigue* by Elizabeth Turner (b. unknown – 1756)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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