

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Holy Eucharist at 11:00 AM

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

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Claire de Lune* from *Suite Bergamasque* by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: † Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

All sing together the Song of Praise.

Song of Praise

Antiphon



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]
God and the Lamb for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

Final Antiphon



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

words: Revelation 5:12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980)

music: *Festival Canticle*, Richard Hillert (1923-2010)

words © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*

music © 1975 Richard Hillert

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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.

All: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading *Acts 7:55-60*

Lector: Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Response *at the direction of the Cantor*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the response 'Alleluia, alleluia.' The first staff is in G major and 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff. The second staff is also in G major and 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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The Gospel *John 14:1-14*

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

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

Deacon: Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon *preached by the Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-Charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed

Douglas Gay, adapted

All: We Believe in Life.

We believe in the God of Life, the world maker, the star lighter, the sun shiner, the beauty maker; provoking the evolving cosmos from nothing but words of love. We believe in life.

We believe in the risen Jesus, the cross bearer, the hell-harrower, the death defier; embracing the resurrection of all as the first-born from death. We believe in life.

We believe in the life-giving Spirit, the breath bringer, the body lover, the Church birther; enabling communion with Jesus the Living One. We believe in life.

We believe in the God of Life: World-maker, cross-bearer, life-giver; Trinity of hope, leading creation to its liberation.

We believe in God.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace, we give you thanks and praise: God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: We thank you for life, and one more day to love; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For opportunity, and one more day to work for justice and peace; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For neighbors, and one more person to love and by whom to be loved; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For your grace, and one more experience of your presence; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God. God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For what else shall we pray? Please name your own prayers in the place where you are.

Silence is kept.

Intercessor: Pray for those who are ill and those who care for them.

Pray for those who have died and those who mourn them.

For the healing you bring and the hope to which you call us: God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: Gathering all our prayers together, we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Musical Offering at the Offertory *sung by the choir*

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.

words: George Herbert (1593-1633)
music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, adapted from the 2nd century Didache eucharistic prayer.

Holy God, we give you thanks for your image and very being, planted in our hearts, and for the knowledge, and faith, and immortality you have made known to us in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

You are radiant in glory through all you have created, O God. You give us food and drink for our pleasure, and that we might give you thanks. You bless us now with spiritual food and drink, eternal life in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

While Jesus sat at table with his friends, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat; this is my Body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, you remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new creation, poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, you remember me."

Gathered now at your banquet O God, we offer our lives as thanks and praise. Remember us, your pilgrim people; deliver us from evil, and make us complete in your love. Gather us, like scattered grain growing on the hillsides, into your great harvest, that we may be made one in the wholeness of your love. **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Communion

During this season of gathering together virtually in the space of our homes, we take this moment to contemplate the sacrament of Christ's presence in the People of God. The Apostle Paul says, "we are all one body because we all share in the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). It is true that when we share any meal in love, and the Eucharist is our especially focused way, we discern the Presence of Christ in and as the community of the beloved. This awareness is possible even at a distance. We are the Body of Christ, wherever we are.

As we open ourselves to that awareness, that spiritual communion, you may wish to pray the following prayer, adapted from the writings of Sr. Ilia Delio:

O God, we are united here as one in your transcendent power of love. From this center of goodness You appear to us now in a new way, a new light, a new understanding, a new power of friendship and unity. We receive this life from you; we share this life together. You appear in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. We receive you. This is the Body of Christ. Amen.

Musical Offering at the Communion *sung by the choir*

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
blest is the one that trusteth in him.

words: Psalm 34:8

music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE SENDING RITE

The Prayer after Communion

from the Church of New Zealand

The Celebrant prays

Celebrant: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. 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.

All: **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 and Peace

from the Church of New Zealand

The Celebrant blesses the People

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. **Amen.**

The Celebrant bids the People to share Christ's Peace with one another now, at the virtual coffee hour to follow, and by reaching out in the week to come.

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Join us for **Coffee Hour** on Zoom! Click here: <https://zoom.us/j/95487513966>
To call in by phone, dial (415) 762-9988 and use meeting ID 954 8751 3966.

View our weekly announcements at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning.

St. Paul's on the Green

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GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Sharing in the work of St. Paul's expanding ministry is easy, and there are many ways to contribute. Financial giving is especially important during this time, as many of the church's costs are fixed, and expenses continue to come due. Grateful thanks for all generous contribution during this time.

You can:

- * **Mail a check** made payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church: 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. Mail is being picked up regularly.
- * Mail in your **pledge envelope**.
- * **Give electronically** via bank or credit card: visit <http://www.stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate> to learn more.
- * **Text-to-Give**: simple and secure; text the amount of your donation to **855-934-1074**.

Please reach out to our Treasurer, Brad McKinney, at treasurer@stpaulsnorwalk.org with any questions or issues you may have. Thank you for your generous giving during this time.
