

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HOLY EUCHARIST
APRIL 28, 2024**

Prelude *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

A brief period of silence follows

Hymn 47 On This Day, the First of Days

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is Risen.
People **Christ is Risen indeed.
Alleluia.**

Let us prayer together



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.

Gloria *Glory to God (sung twice)*

Lift Every Voice and Sing II - #243

*

Glo - ry,

Glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, Glo-ry,

*Repeat twice to the **

Glo-ry hal-le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name.

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading*Acts 8:26-40*

NRSV

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

A period of silence follows the reading

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

A period of silence follows

The Psalm*Psalm 22: 24-30**St. Helena's Breviary*

My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek you shall praise you: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

For yours is the royal power, O God; *
you rule over the nations.

To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.

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

**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that you have done.**

A period of silence follows the reading

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

NRSV

A reading from the John's First Letter.

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.

A period of silence follows the reading

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

A period of silence follows

Sequence Hymn 516

Come Down, O Love Divine

Gospel

John 15: 1-8

NRSV

remain standing as you are able

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **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.”

A period of silence follows the reading

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

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

A period of silence follows

The Homily

Rev. Deacon Geof Smith

The Nicene Creed

please stand as you are able

**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 Father¹.
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.**

¹ The 71st General Convention (1994) reaffirms its intention to remove the Filioque clause from the Nicene Creed.

Prayers of the People²

Let us pray.

Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to TURN our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Guide your people to LEARN your Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Son of God, you responded to your Father in PRAYER and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of every nation might live in unity and peace. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Light of the World, you taught us to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to BLESS one another and our neighbors in this town and the entire Upper Valley Community, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to GO among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, _____ that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and REST in your grace. May all who have died, especially _____, rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together, **Jesus, guide us in your way.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us into life as your Beloved Community in this age and in age to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

² THE WAY OF LOVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Composed by the Reverend Allison English, Calvary Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/wol_prayers_of_the_people_final.pdf

The Holy Communion

Offertory Music *Minuet from Partita IV*

J. S. Bach

Offertory Hymn 382 *King of Glory, King of Peace*

the offering, bread and wine are brought forward to the altar

The people remain standing as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Form B, BCP, p. 367

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 to praise you for the 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, Holy, Holy

WLP, #858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

san - na in the high - est. Bless'd 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hosanna in the Highest'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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; 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 for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this juice.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Mary, Martin, our Patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence follows.

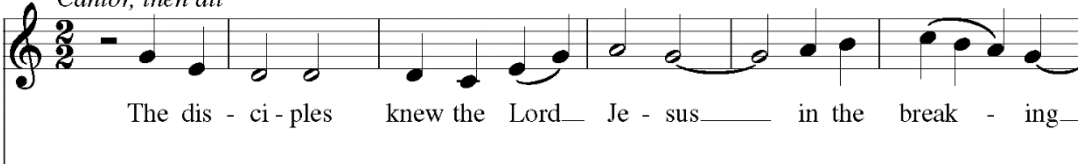


Fraction Anthem

everyone, together

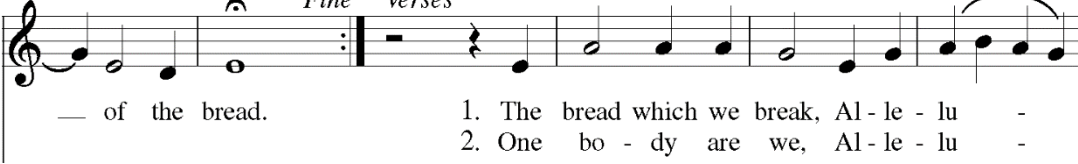
Wonder, Love and Praise # 876

Antiphon
Cantor, then all



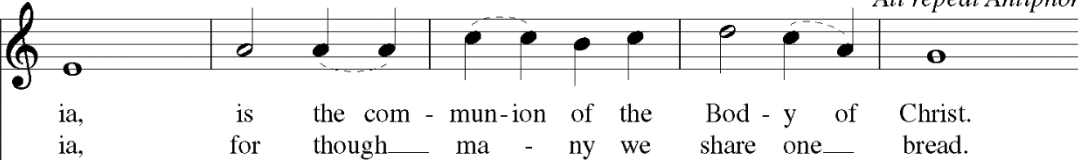
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

Fine *Verses*



— of the bread. 1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

All repeat Antiphon



ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.
ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation:

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
Holy Food for Holy People.

The people come forward to receive the Bread and the Cup

About Communion: ***This is God's Altar - All are welcome.***

- *All who come to this place seeking God are welcome to receive Holy Communion*
- *The bread is gluten-free and we use wine in individual cups.*
- *If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher know, and we will be happy to bring Communion to you in your seat.*
- *Those who do not wish to receive Communion are always welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

This is God's table and all people are welcome to receive communion in this place.

*At this time, we invite all present to come forward to receive communion.
No matter who you are, you are a beloved Child of God and
are invited to receive either a blessing or communion.
The people receive communion first and then ministers at the altar.*

Communion Music *Meditation*

Charles-Marie Widor

The Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Holy and Eternal God,
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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn 457 *Thou art the Way, to Thee Alone*

Announcements

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude *Fugue in C Major*

J. S. Bach

The Worship is over. Now the Service begins.

Coffee Hour and fellowship follows worship in the Gathering Room

Image: <https://i.pinimg.com/474x/d3/87/77/d387773b3ecbac9db002b01842ae60f3.jpg>