

THE CHURCH of the GOOD SHEPHERD
Pitman, New Jersey

THE Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2nd, 2021



Welcome to the Church of the Good Shepherd!

We invite you to participate fully in our worship today. We are a community of people rooted in the Christian faith as expressed in the Episcopal Church and worldwide Anglican Communion. We are committed to responsible Bible teaching, unity, diversity, radical hospitality and beauty in worship. We care about each other, our community and our world. We hope you will be enriched and refreshed through this experience of worship. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, please know that you are welcome here at Good Shepherd.

Church of the Good Shepherd

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Zoom Log-in Info:

Check email for info via Flocknote

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

THE HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Dave Snyder, Celebrant

Organ Prelude

Welcome! Everything you need to follow along and participate in worship today is in this program. Words in **bold** are read by all. Please make sure you “Mute” your device by clicking on the microphone icon in the lower left-hand corner of your screen.

Entrance Hymn: **All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine** (Hymn #477)

Vs. #1: All praise to thee, for thou, O king divine, didst yield the glory that of right was thine, and that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine. Alleluia!

Vs. #2: Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought; by thee the outcast and the poor were sought; and by thy death was God's salvation wrought. Alleluia!

Vs. #5: Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord; and God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia!

Celebrant: *Alleluia, Christ is Risen*

People: The Lord is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!!

The Collect for Purity

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.*

People: Amen.

Celebrant and People:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father...Amen.

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 First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand

what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.**

The Psalm 22:24-30

(BCP, pg. #612)

(The Psalm will be read responsively by half verse. The congregation will read the second half of each verse)

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

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

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

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * **he rules over the nations.**

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

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * **they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.**

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

The Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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.

Gospel Hymn: **Alleluia, alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord**

Hymn #178

REFRAIN: Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Give Praise to His Name.

Vs. 1: Jesus is Lord, of all the earth. He is the King of Creation. REFRAIN

Deacon: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John** (15:1-8)*

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

Deacon: *The Gospel of the Lord*

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn: **Alleluia, alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord**

Hymn #178

Vs. 2: Spread the Good News o're all the earth. Jesus has died and has Risen. REFRAIN

The Homily

Fr. Dave Snyder

The Nicene Creed

(BCP, pg. # 358)

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.

Prayers of the People: Form VI

(BCP, pg. # 392)

Lector: *In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.*

Silence

L: *For all people in their daily life and work;*

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

L: *For this community, the nation, and the world;*

P: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

L: *For the just and proper use of your creation;*

P: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

L: *For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;*

P: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

L: *For the peace and unity of the Church of God;*

P: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

L: *For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and William, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;*

P: For all who serve God in his Church.

L: *We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.*

Silence

L: *Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;*

P: Who put their trust in you.

L: *For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.*

Silence

L: *Hear us, Lord;*

P: For your mercy is great.

Celebrant: *Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord...Amen.*

The Confession:

Celebrant: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and **People**:

Most merciful God we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name...Amen.

Celebrant: *Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father (+) and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: *The Peace of the Lord be always with you.*

People: And also with you.

Parish Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, pg. #361

The Celebrant says: *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.

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 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:*

*The Celebrant and **People** will say:*

People: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues:

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:

*Celebrant and **People***

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

The Celebrant continues

*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 your 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. **AMEN.***

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

Celebrant and **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia, *Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

PEOPLE: THEREFORE, LET US KEEP THE FEAST, Alleluia!!

The Agnus Dei:

Celebrant: *Lamb of God, You Take Away the Sins of the World*

PEOPLE: Have Mercy Upon Us

Celebrant: *Lamb of God, You Take away the Sins of the World*

PEOPLE: Have Mercy Upon Us

Celebrant: *Lamb of God, You Take Away the Sins of the World*

PEOPLE: Grant us PEACE!

Celebrant: *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.*

Hear Those Lovely Bells

(Anna Fisicaro, piano)

The Eucharistic Hymn: **O Love How Deep, How Broad, How wide** *(Hymn #448)*

Vs. #1: O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake

Vs. #2: For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

The Distribution of Bread and Wine

Celebrant: *The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.*

The Prayer for a Spiritual Communion:

Celebrant: Let Us Pray:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come...Amen.

The Collect for Discernment:

Celebrant: *Let Us Prayer:* **Gracious God, who knows our needs even before we ask, Grant us the wisdom and grace to do Your Will as we seek a new Rector. Bless each member of the Discernment Committee with clear eyes, listening ears, and discerning minds. Speak to the hearts of your people so that we may discover our mutual path toward fulfilling Your will for the Church of the Good Shepherd and the community we are called to serve. We ask this prayer united in faith and love, in the name of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ..... AMEN!**

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Celebrant: Let Us Pray

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever...Amen.

The Blessing and Benediction

Celebrant: *And now, people of God, as you go on your way, may Christ, himself, go with you. May He go behind you to encourage you; in front of you to show you the way; beside you to befriend you; above you to watch over you and within you to give you His peace, in the name of the Father (+) and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...AMEN!*

Recessional Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(Hymn #376)

Vs. #1: Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Vs. #2: All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Vs. #3: Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

The Dismissal

Deacon: *Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Risen Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*
PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD, ALELLUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!!

ASSISTING AT THE LITURGY TODAY

Lay Reader: Deb Prieto