

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 10:30 am

Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, persons with or without disabilities, younger or older! Whoever you are,

know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

10:30 am The Sixth Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Eucharistic Ministers JT Kittredge, Mabel Moore-Pollard

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & Presider The Rev. Cn. Gregory Perez
Readers Susan Rice, Mary Buchinger

Ushers Alan Aukeman Videographer Steve Clark Welcomer Sylvia Weston

The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell



"Hilariter" is Latin for "joyfully" and is pronounced "hi-lair-i-tair" in this hymn.

Words: Friedrich von Spee (1591-1635); tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) Music: Hilariter, Richard Wayne Dirksen (b. 1921)

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

All then pray

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.**

Song of Praise: The Whole World is Waking Up



The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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 First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Susan Rice

A reading from the Book of Acts.

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

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98



Sing to the LORD a new song, *

for he has done marvelous things.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, * the lands and those who dwell therein. *Refrain*

Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world * and the peoples with equity. *Refrain*

The Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Susan Rice

A reading from the First Book of John.

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

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: To Love Our Families (vs. 1-2 before the Gospel, v. 3 after) SJS 90



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The Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Cn. Gregory Perez Regional Canon for the Central Region

Affirmation of Faith: I believe in God almighty



WLP 769



Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) @GIA Publications Music: Afron (Major), harm. Carlton R. Young. @Abington Press.

We come with anticipation on this first day of the week to become witnesses, sharing in the resurrection life of Jesus.

Eternal One, you have filled your Church with new life and empowered us through the conquering love of Jesus: Raise us with your Spirit that we may live in the power of Christ's resurrection to be empowered to walk through these days with faith and to bring life and light to all the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The right hand of the Most High has triumphed over evil and death, bringing new hope and peace to all the world: Speak your living truth unto everyone who leads and holds authority among the nations, that they may be agents of life that all war and violence might cease.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Apostle Peter has taught us, that you show no partiality, O God, but you accept all who live reverently and do right: Let your peace extend to every person, that the power of war, violence, racism, transphobia, and all injustice may be banished, and all people may live as beloved children of the divine.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the resurrection of Christ Jesus, the promise of redemption for the whole creation is offered: Let that renewal extend to our planet, that humanity might change its ways to save the earth.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ the wounded healer has overcome all that can threaten us. Let his resurrection power bring healing and hope to all those for whom we pray at this time.

(You are invited at this time to pray for those in need of healing.)

Give thanks to God who is good, whose mercy endures for ever. We offer our grateful gladness this Sunday in Eastertide.

(You are invited at this time to offer prayers of thanksgiving.)

Christ has died and is risen, bringing life and immortality to light. We remember those who have died. May they live in him and share in the joy of Easter.

(You are invited at this time to pray for those who have died.)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Presider then says

Gracious, eternal, and loving God, you have anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and raised him from death on the cross into resurrection life: Feed us with his life that we may be his witnesses, sharing in the Spirit's work of reconciliation and justice, through the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Celebrations

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: May God Be Gracious and Bless Us All William Billings *The Adult Choir*

Presentation Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen again



Words: Michael Weisse (1480-1534); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Christ ist erstanden, melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1533

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

(Adapted from a prayer from St. Gregory of Nyssa San Francisco)

Presider The Lord 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.

The Presider says

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God our Creator and Lover. You make all things and call them good. You love us into being. You form us in your image.

And you breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away and our love fails, your love remains steadfast. You deliver us from captivity and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey. You set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

Sanctus MHSO 37





Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.

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Presider

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By his baptism of suffering and death you give your church birth into a living hope. Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us, by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom. We who were no people are now your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night when he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, 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."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Then, on the third day you raised him from the dead and revealed him to the women who came to the tomb to care for his body. On that day he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread. And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, and we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world, until all feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

Hear our plea, dear Father we pray; shower upon us your heav'nly grace that we may be your people Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding, may your name always be hallowed by us. Your will is righteous and ever consistent, in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of. Please forgive us the sins we've committed. Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us. Save us also from all that is evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory at this time and world without end.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

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The Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover





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Music: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Oxford University Press; desc. Alec Wyton (b. 1921),

C Paraclete Press

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The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Presider

Administration of Communion

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Communion Anthem: Talk to God

The Greenleaf Choir

Text: Rabbi Nachman

Music: Patrick Michaels



Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20th cent.). St. 2, Matthew 7:7. Stanza 2 is not part of the hymn as originally written.

Music: Seek Ye First, Karen Lafferty (20th cent.)

13. 11. 7 with Alleluias

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

People Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with the spiritual food that is the Risen One, Jesus Christ. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and

continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Presider

May the peace of the Risen Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May Christ guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May Christ bring you home rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.

May Christ bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,

be with you, now and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn: We Want to Love





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Dismissal

Presider With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

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Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org

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