

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion  
In-person & Zoom Worship  
April 28, 2024 ♦ 10:30 am



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Middlebury, Vermont

*Our purpose: To grow in God's love and serve Christ in all people*

*Our mission: To be an inclusive community awake to God  
in worship, learning and service*

# The Holy Eucharist

As we gather for worship, let us recognize and acknowledge that our bodies walk, pray and live in the hills and valleys that have been and continue to be the traditional, ancestral and unceded homeland of the Abenaki people.

## The Word of God

Prelude

Two preludes on Welsh hymn tunes, *Rhosymedre* and *Hyfrydol*  
R. Vaughan Williams

Hymn 657

*Hyfrydol*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

### The Easter Acclamation

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

# Gloria in excelsis S278

William Mathias



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his 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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* God 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.**

## First Lesson (*Lector 1*)

Acts of the Apostles 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.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 22:24-30

*The Choir sings the antiphon and it is then repeated by the congregation. The Choir then chants the psalm verses, with the congregation singing the antiphon where indicated.*

The image shows a musical score for an antiphon. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Make known the saving deeds that you have done." The word "sav" is hyphenated as "sav - ing". The music ends with a double bar line.

24. My praise is of you in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

25. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall praise you: \*

“May your heart live for ever!” [ANT.]

26. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
27. For yours is the royal power, O God; \*  
you rule over the nations.
28. To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust shall fall before you. [ANT.]
29. My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; \*  
they shall be known as yours for ever.
30. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that you have done. [ANT.]

tr. *The Saint Helena Psalter*, Copyright © The Order of Saint Helena. All rights reserved

**Second Lesson** (*Lector 2*)

1 John 4:7-21

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.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

# Sequence Hymn

Winchester New

1. The branch that bends with clustered fruit Still  
 2. The spin - dly, twist - ed, tan - gled coil Of  
 3. The pru - ner's hook will gen - tly play Where  
 4. O God, who fills with rain and sun The

needs the prun - er's blade To keep it close to  
 branch - es o - ver - grown Pro - duc - es noth - ing  
 fruit - ful growth is seen But like an axe will  
 grapes we press for wine, Cut off the growth our

vine and root Or else its strength will fade.  
 from its toil But feeds it - self a - lone.  
 slash a - way The emp - ty net of green.  
 fears have spun and prune us to your vine.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger (1945-2022), ©1994, Oxford University Press, Inc.  
 Music: *Winchester Old*, melody from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1592  
 Harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1922  
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*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord 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.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Charlie Nichols

*All are invited to stand to say together* **The Nicene Creed**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

### **The Prayers of the People** (*Intercessor*)

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of Bangladesh and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the clergy, people and ministry of Christ Church, Island Pond.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.  
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way.  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick, especially Michael, Mary Kay, Larry, Shirley,

Brennan, Ethan, Dave, Jayden, Bob, Patrick, Allan, Erica, Tom, Stephen, Tommy, Dana, Isabel, Marjorie, Jack, Peter, Dick, Geoffrey, Barbara, Ella, Jeff, Sarah, Rita, and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our power and our strength, hear the prayers we lift up to you for the concerns of our hearts . . .

*All are encouraged to offer up any needs or concerns in prayer*

Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, we give thanks for the wedding yesterday of Caroline Kimble and Simon Peterson and all the other blessings of this life . . .

*All are encouraged to offer up any needs or concerns in prayer*

Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, especially Laurie Holton who died this week. Raise us with them to eternal life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Parish Announcements**

# **The Holy Communion**

## **Offertory Anthem**

*If ye love me*

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever, e'en the spirit of truth. John 14:15-17

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B expansive trial use version

*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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 Christ's 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

Jeffrey Smith

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full\_ of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name\_ of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass in E*, Jeffrey Smith, © 1990 Morning Star Music Publishers.  
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*The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues*

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember Christ's death,**  
**We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**  
**We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.

## The Breaking of the Bread

### Fraction Anthem

Jeffrey Smith



*Choir:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

*All:* Repeat Alleluias.

Music: *Mass in E*, Jeffrey Smith, ©1990 Morning Star Music Publishers Reprinted under OneLicense #A-709373

## Ministration of Communion

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*You are welcome at this table. Please follow the direction of our ushers to approach the altar to receive Communion. After receiving the host, the consecrated wine may be received either directly by sipping from the chalice or in individual single-serve cups. Grape juice is available in single-serve cups for those who prefer this option.*

*For those joining us on Zoom it's suggested that the following prayer for spiritual communion be said during this time:*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, O Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I pray you to 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.

Communion Anthem

*The Tree of Life*

Daniel Pinkham

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:  
 The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.  
 His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
 The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
 For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
 I missed of all: but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.  
 I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest a while:  
 Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
 This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;  
 Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

-Words: Anonymous, from a collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784

Communion Hymn 487

*The Call*

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

## The Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*A blessing is offered, then all sing together*

## Hymn 296

*Engelberg*

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows \_\_\_\_\_

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. \_\_\_\_\_



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le -  
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. \_\_\_\_\_  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: \_\_\_\_\_

*Final Ending*

lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt.  
 Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

10 10 10 with Alleluia

## Dismissal

*Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude *Nun danket alle Gott [Now thank we all our God]* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*The altar flowers are given by Diane Nancekivell in thanksgiving for “the joy I feel coming home to a thriving St. Stephen’s”*

*Celebrant:* The Rev. Paul V. Olsson

*Deacon & Preacher:* The Rev. Charlie Nichols

*Zoom Tech:* Peter Dempewolf *Ushers:* Beth Stanway, Paul Horn

*Altar Guild:* Diane Nancekivell, Tom Turley

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Jay Parini, Mike Davis

*Acolytes:* Asa Flagg Davis, Declan Gallipo

*Lectors:* Jay Parini, Beth Stanway *Intercessor:* Shannon Bohler

*Guest Organist:* Frederick DeHaven

*Choir members:* Mary Claire DeHaven, Winky Thomas, Cathy Sontum,  
 Heather Pask, Elizabeth Oettinger, Catherine Nichols, Michael Reeves, Joe McVeigh,  
 Joanna Pask, Jack Simpson, Gaen Murphree, Elliot Pask, Wendy Taylor,  
 Ada Simpson, Mike Davis, Dorothy Hayes, Mary Jane Simpson





## Music Notes

The anthem, *If ye love me*, by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) is a setting of John 14:15-17 from William Tyndale's translation of the Bible (1522-1535). The anthem is found in a manuscript set of partbooks from the 1540s and was published in 1541 during the reign of Elizabeth I. The text of the Sequence Hymn, *The branch that bends with clustered fruit*, is based on this morning's Gospel reading and was written by the late Tom Troeger, a gifted American author and speaker, known especially for his work in homiletics, liturgy, spirituality, and hymnody.



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