

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
A SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community
in Christ”*

Sunday April 28, 2024
10:15am

Our vision at Christ Episcopal Church is to be ambassadors
of Reconciliation in Christ, living lives of Love and Grace!

2 Corinthians 5:11-20

H-blue hymnal-pew copy

BCP- book of common prayer (red book)-pew copy

MHSO-(An approved supplemental hymnal)-digital copy

VF-Voices Found (An approved supplemental hymnal)- digital copy

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (H 205) *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing (Gelobt sei Gott)*

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

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

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

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

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord ✠ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

SALUTATION FOR BAPTISM (BCP p. 299)

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE S 278 *Glory to God*

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

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. *Amen.*

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts of the Apostles:

²⁶An 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 22:24-30

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

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

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first letter of John:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN *Celtic Alleluia (O'Carroll/Walker) (MHSO 20)*

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

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

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹“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.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord ✠Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Celtic Alleluia (O'Carroll/Walker) (MHSO 20)*

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

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

THE HOMILY (BCP p. 326)

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES (BCP p. 301)

The Celebrant says

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors.

Parents and Godparents I present Wynefred and Juniper Fels to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

People We will.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with *those* who *are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (BCP p. 304)

Celebrant

Do you believe in God the Father?

People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People

I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES (BCP p. 305)

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of new birth [and for those (this person) who *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.]

Leader Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER (BCP p. 306)

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received

the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM (BCP p. 307)

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants* the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying to each one

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED (BCP p. 308)


When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

BAPTISMAL WELCOME *Jesus loves me!* (VF 163)



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died, hea - ven's gate to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus take this heart of mine, make it pure and whol - ly thine;



lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
on the cross you died for me, I will try to live for thee.



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! for the bi - ble tells me so.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

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

Ephesians 5:2

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN (H 178) Jesus is Lord of all the Earth

During this time the gifts are brought forward, and a collection is taken.

(R) Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

Verse

Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior **(R)**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 361)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

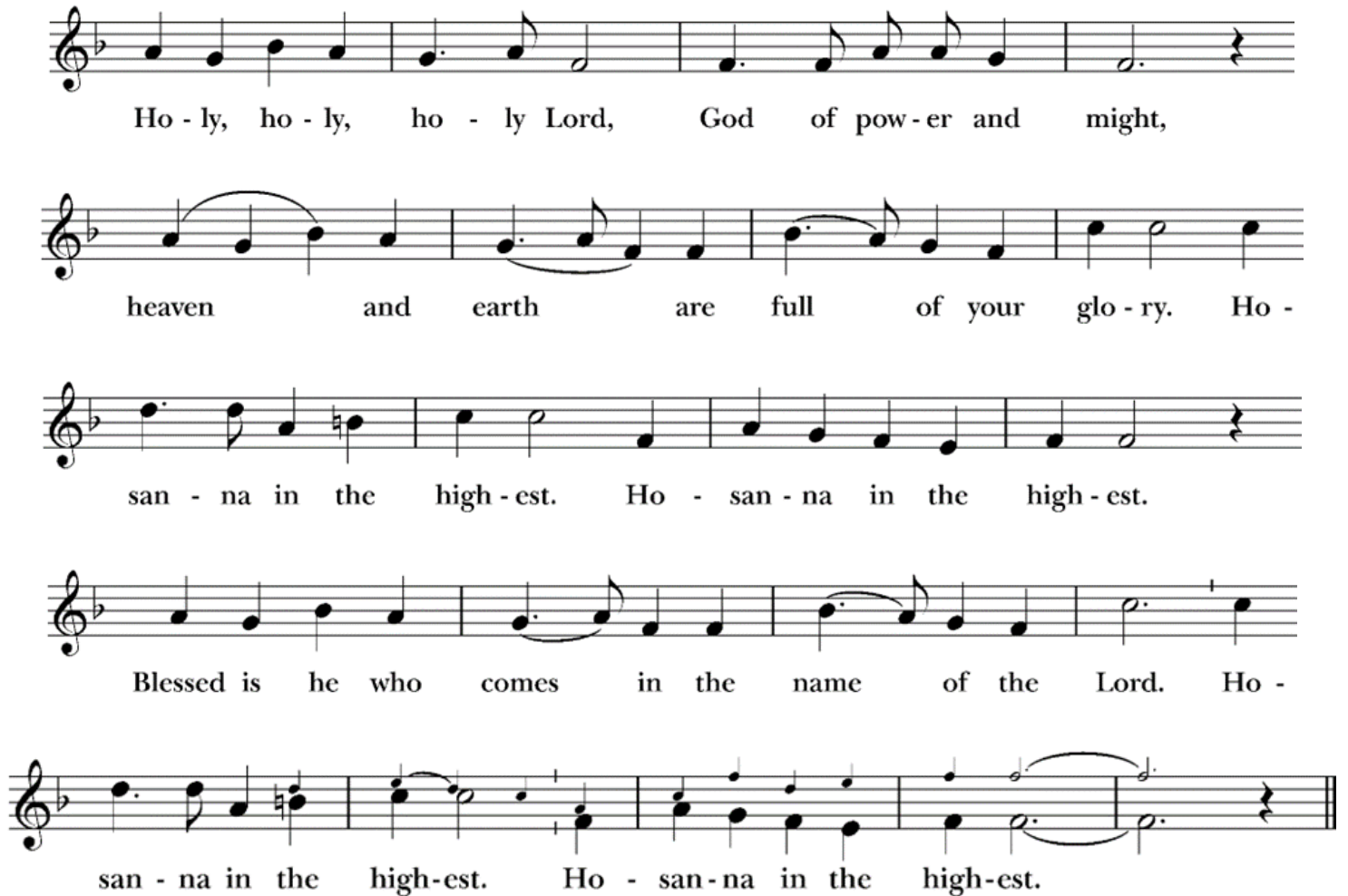
PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 361)

It is right, and a good and joyful thing ...

... 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 (S 125) *Holy, Holy, Holy*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 334)

The people kneel or stand.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...
...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS (BCP p. 363)

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father... 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 for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM (LEVAS 154) *Taste and See (refrain only)*

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

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.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

You may be seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you consume it and then move to the cup of consecrated wine. The cup is for drinking, and for those who choose to "intinct" or touch the tip of their bread to the wine. You may also choose to

receive Communion in only one kind. If you would like a blessing, come forward and cross your hands over your heart to indicate you would like to be blessed. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN (H 343)

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
word of grace, in strength of which we
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
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.**

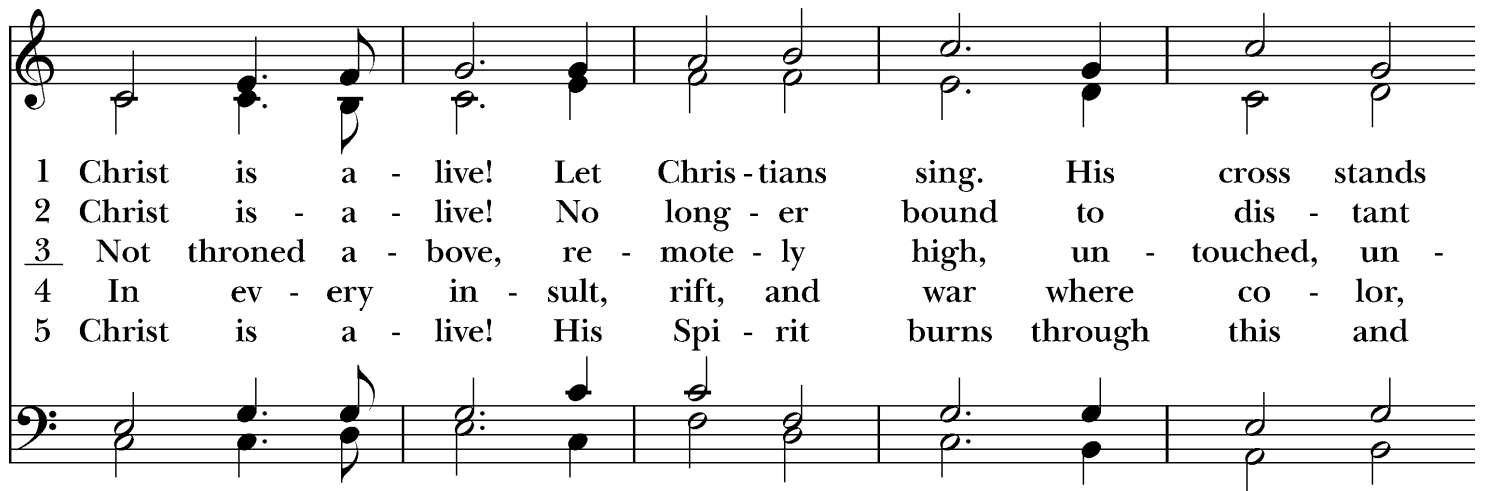
BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

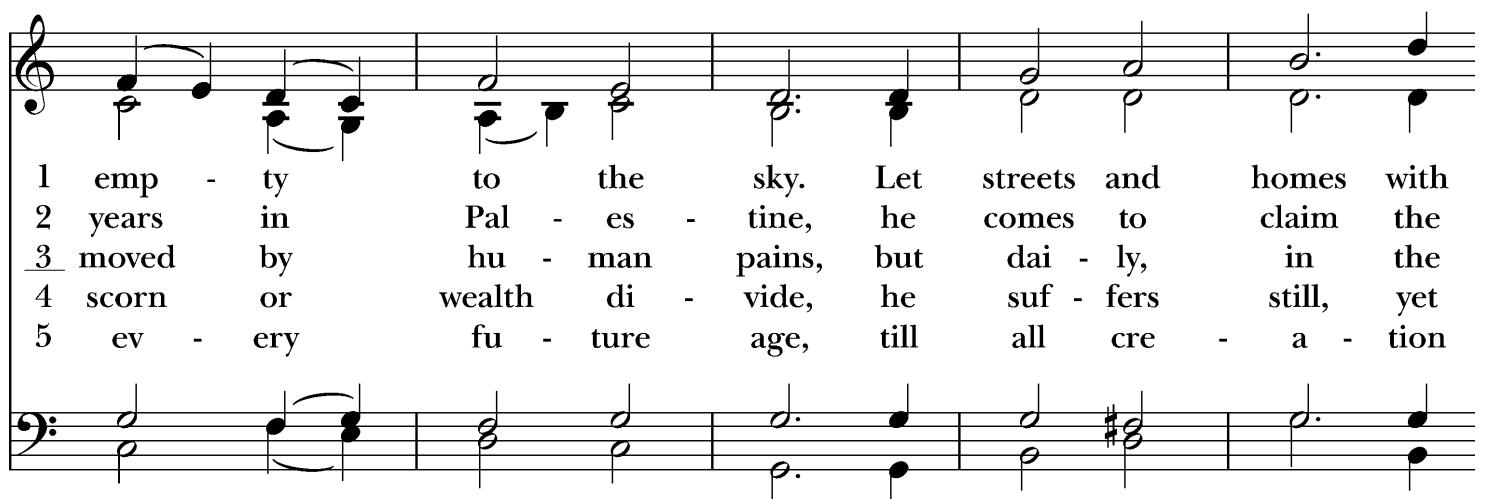
The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN (H 182)

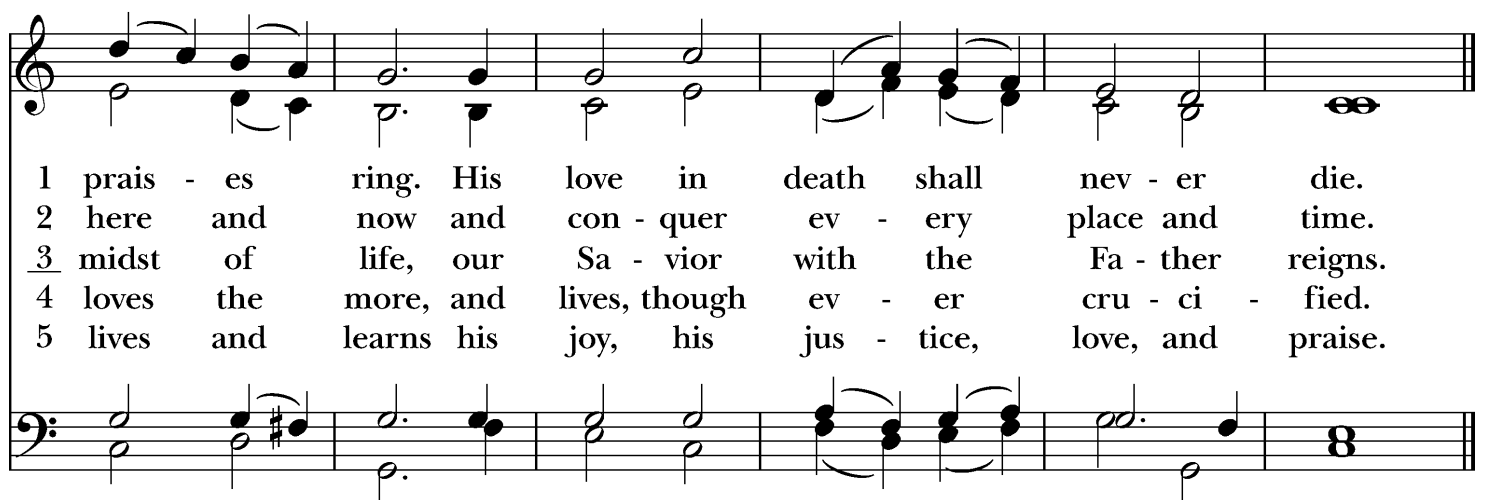
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and



1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion



1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please join us downstairs for coffee hour following the 10:15 Mass

NO SATURDAY MASS MAY 4TH DUE TO GATHER 24

<u>Today's Liturgy Participants:</u>	<u>Next week's Liturgy Participants</u>
Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev. Bruce Gowe Vergers: Cynthia Leenerts Lectors: Chris Searles Tom Van Wort Altar Server: Carl Ausfahl Crucifer: Adrian Gonzalez Accompanist: Sue Stillo Counters: Jan Selving Colleen Schaufele Chalice Bearer: Andrea Cato-McQueen	Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Sidnie Crawford Celebrant: The Rev. Bruce Gowe Vergers: Cynthia Leenerts Lectors: Andrea Cato-McQueen Leigh Smith Altar Server: Leigh Smith Counters: Steve Whiteley Martha Linne Chalice Bearer: Mary Ellen Whiteley

The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, *Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem*

The Rev. Bruce Gowe, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Rev. Dr. Sidnie Crawford, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Dominic Lorenzetti, *Assisting Pastoral Care Minister*

Bethann Kratzer, *Music Director*

Christ Episcopal Church

205 North Seventh St. Stroudsburg, Pa 18360

Office Hours: 10am-2pm | Tuesday through Friday (570) 421-7481

Joyce Onsted, Administrative Assistant

email: christchurchsburg@gmail.com

website: www.christchurchstroudsburg.net

‘VESTRY

Senior Warden – Carl Ausfahl

Jr. Warden – Kevin Casey

Clerk of Vestry – Jan Selving

Myra Bailey, Cynthia Leenerts, Debby Campbell, Kevin Furst,

Rob Ceci and Louise Daleigh