

# Christ Church of Bethany and Woodbridge

## Fifth Sunday of Easter (4/28/2024)

Prelude: *O Lamm Gottes unschuldig* Pachelbel

Announcements

Processional Hymn 47 *On This Day the First of Days*

The Office of Morning Prayer, as beginning on page 75 of The Book of Common Prayer

*All stand*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

*The congregation may be seated*

Christ our Passover

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \***

therefore let us keep the feast,

**Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \***

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \***

death no longer has dominion over him.

**The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \***

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

**So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \***

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

**Christ has been raised from the dead, \***

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**For since by a man came death, \***

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

**For as in Adam all die, \***

so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 22:24-30

**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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.***

A Reading from the Book of Acts 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

11 The Third Song of Isaiah

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**

But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

16 The Song of Zechariah

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \***  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Gradual Hymn 379      *God is Love*

A Reading from the Gospel of John 15:1-8

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."

The Sermon

Choir Anthem:      *We Have Been Told*      Haas

The Apostles' Creed

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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

The Peace

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Offertory Hymn 328 *Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord*

*Ushers collect the offering.*

Doxology

*Ushers bring the offering forward*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**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.**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;

**We praise your name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;

**And we shall never hope in vain.**

*The congregation may contribute their own thanksgivings and petitions, either silently or aloud*

*The Officiant may remember the altar flower dedications and the prayers for those members of our community and extended community as printed at the bottom of the order of service.*

*If applicable: We especially remember God's servant(s) \_\_\_\_\_. Give to the departed eternal rest. **Let light perpetual shine upon them.** May [his/her/their] soul(s) and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, **rest in peace.** Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

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.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Officiant:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

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

Recessional Hymn 544 *Jesus Shall Reign*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Postlude: *Jesus Shall Reign*      Mansfield

Participants:

Crucifer: Deb Melycher  
Officiant: Ruth Beardsley  
Preacher: Bob Skolozdra  
Musician and Choir Director: Michelle Fraser  
Lector: Michael Prinz  
Altar Guild: Deb Melycher  
Video: Pat Ryan  
Counters: Pat Ryan and Carol Paugus  
Ecclesia Canem: Brother Jesse, CGC

Stewards of the Sacred Space: Ruth Beardsley and Michelle Fraser

Flower dedication:

The altar flowers are given by Christ Church Choir in honor of the ministry of Michele Fraser

In our Petitions and Thanksgivings:

Jayne Johnson, Madeline Slicer, Doris Beswick, Sandy, Cate Horton, Lisa Caivano, Patricia, Paul, Frankie Sylvester, Pat Ryan, Rosalie Molnar, Steve, Nancy, Margaret Clements, Jeff Boyd, Greg Banks, John Matheson, Owen Horvath, Sharon Patrick, Josephine, William, Kerri Guida, Joan, MaryBeth Vientos, Charlie