

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2024



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255
Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

Main Street at Fifth
870-793-2203

Today's Ministers

<i>Officiant:</i>	Mr. Cameron Gillespie
<i>Chalice bearer:</i>	Ms. Brenda Bittle
<i>Lector:</i>	Ms. Ardis Gillespie
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Ms. Karis Ford
<i>Ushers:</i>	Mr. Gary Perkey & Mr. Tim Dunlap
<i>Choir Director & Organist:</i>	Mr. Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	Mr. Jon Healey
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Ms. Beverly Grigsby & Ms. Sarah Drake

This Week's Community Meal (5/8/2024): Team Wray

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Rhonda & Mike Mundy to the glory of God, in honor of their wedding anniversary & in thanksgiving for their church family.

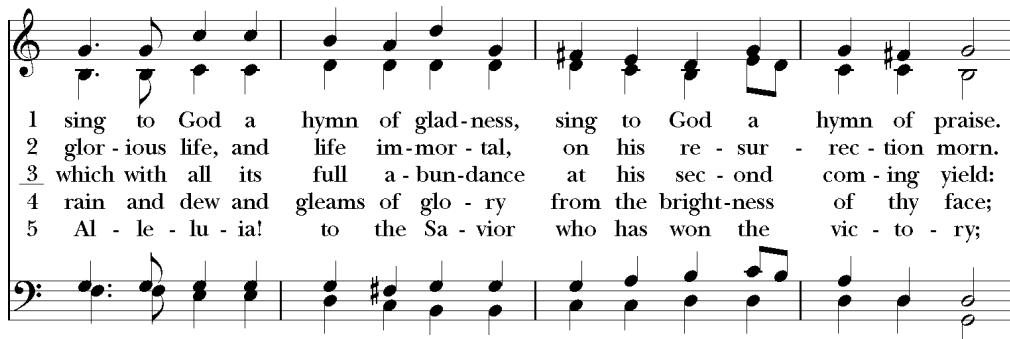
The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: Rite Two

The Word of God

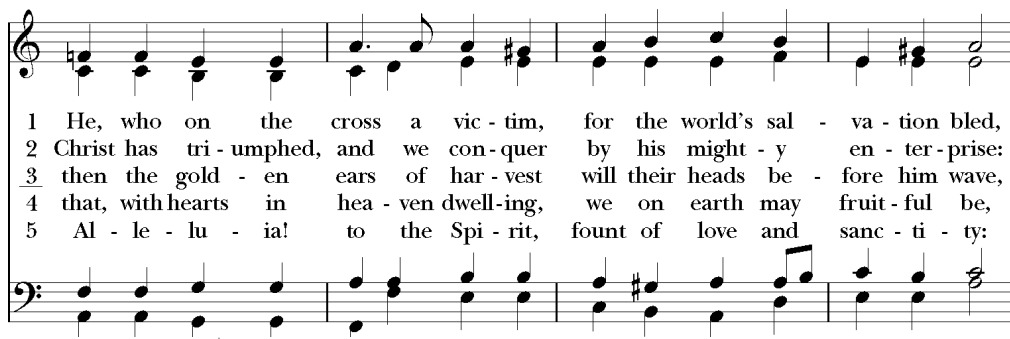
Entrance Hymn 191: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts And Voices Heavenward Raise* vs 1, 2, & 3



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts and voic - es heaven-ward raise:
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,
3 Christ is ris - en, Christ, the first-fruits of the ho - ly har - vest - field,
4 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Shed up - on us heaven - ly grace,
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;



1 sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
2 glor - ious life, and life im - mor - tal, on his re - sur - rec - tion morn.
3 which with all its full a - bun-dance at his sec - ond com - ing yield:
4 rain and dew and gleams of glo - ry from the bright-ness of thy face;
5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Sa - vior who has won the vic - to - ry;



1 He, who on the cross a vic - tim, for the world's sal - va - tion bled,
2 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by his might - y en - ter - prise:
3 then the gold - en ears of har - vest will their heads be - fore him wave,
4 that, with hearts in hea - ven dwell - ing, we on earth may fruit - ful be,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Spi - rit, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty:



1 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
2 we with him to life e - ter - nal by his re - sur - rec - tion rise.
3 ri - pened by his glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.
4 and by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be ev - er, Lord, with thee.
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! to the Tri - une Ma - jes - ty.

Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The people standing (as able), the Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Officiant says

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.**

Gloria - Sung (S278)

(BCP 356)

Officiant and People

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,

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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.*

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

Lector: 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 (*BCP 727*)

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
 for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
 has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 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.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
 with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
 shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
 the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
 and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Lector: A reading from the First Letter 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

There is no procession. The Lector remains at the lectern to read the third reading, using the same form as the first two.

Sequence Hymn 529: In Christ There Is No East or West

Unison or harmony

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther -
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Third Reading

John 15:9-17

There is no procession. The Lector reads the third reading from the lectern, using the same form as the first two.

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to St. John

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Read by Cameron Gillespie

Nicene Creed *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

All stand, as the People and Officiant say together.

**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 IV – found on page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer

People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

We pray especially for Peyton Olson and her work in Kenya.

We pray for our wardens, vestry, and those who will choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for God's people and equip us for our ministries.

We give thanks for those celebrating a birthday & an anniversary this week, especially Diane Willmuth (5/5), and Lisa & Mickey Powell (5/11).

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation **especially:** Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim &

Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Isabelle Tenace, Ellen Massey, Martha Healey, Bill Olson, Junior Kipfer, and Jim McDonald.

We pray also for family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested: Jim Wilson, Jay, Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mary Myers, Mason Evans, Mark & Jennifer, Susan, Ken Ortman, Jody Gayle, Stacey Lindsey, Tara Nance, the Sweet Family, Rebecca Ward, Annalynn Hart, Melvin & Jennie Smith, Howard Crosby, Pat Spence, Gina Layne, David Smith, Loresa Snow, Bill Waldrip, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Dwayne & Audra Stott, Keith Perkins, Bob & Jane Williamson, Jim & Charlotte, James Ward, Chip Rayford, Anna Snow, Jordy, Shelby & Penelope Rubio, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, and Mark Counts

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Officiant adds the following Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant 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.**

The Officiant remains kneeling and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Officiant may begin the Offertory with the following or another Offertory sentence.

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

Offertory Anthem: *I Give You A New Commandment* Peter Aston

Doxology: 43 v.4

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people's offerings of money or other gifts are received. The officiant reverently places the offerings on the altar.

The Officiant opens the tabernacle, reverently places the ciborium containing the consecrated bread on the altar, and pours the consecrated wine from the flagon into the chalice.

The Officiant then continues

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

People and Officiant

**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 Officiant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add

take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: *Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured*

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

Officiant and People

On 365:

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.

Post Communion Hymn 292: *O Jesus, Crowned with All Renown*

1 O Je - sus, crowned with all re - nown, since thou the earth hast
2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be
3 that we may feed the poor a - right, and, gath - ering round thy
trod, thou reign - est and by thee come down hence -
given; all fos - tering power, all in - fluence sweet, breathe
throne, here, in the ho - ly an - gels' sight, re -
forth the gifts of God. Thine is the health and
from the bount - eous heaven. At - tem - per fair with
pay thee of thine own: That we may praise thee
thine the wealth that in our halls a - bound, and
gen - tle air the sun - shine and the rain, that
all our days, and with the Fa - ther's Name, and
thine the beau - ty and the joy with which the years are crowned.
kind - ly earth with time - ly birth may yield her fruits a - gain:
with the Ho - ly Spi - rit's gifts, the Sa - vior's love pro - claim.

Dismissal

Officiant Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Organ Postlude

***This morning's sermon is from Sermons That Work, a ministry of the Office of Communication of The Episcopal Church. The sermon is written by Katerina Katsarka Whitley of Boone, NC. She is a diocesan editor in the Diocese of East Carolina. © 2024 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.**