

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 4:30 pm

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Please note the Sunday services are Live Streamed and recorded for our YouTube Channel.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE PRELUDE (10:00)

Clair de Lune

C. DEBUSSY

OPENING HYMN 296 (10:00) *We know that Christ is raised*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (8:00)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God, and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

GLORIA HYMNAL S-280 (10:00)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. *(Silence may be kept.)* 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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

(Please be seated for the readings.)

THE FIRST LESSON: A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8:26-40

This is the story of how Philip brought the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Jesus. Early Christians doubtless loved to tell and retell this narrative. It shows how a significant foreign personage who was apparently an inquirer into Judaism, learned about Jesus and was baptized. It also illustrates the way an important passage from the Old Testament was interpreted as prophecy about Jesus.

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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 22:24-30

A song of praise to the Lord who rules over all and cares for the downtrodden.

- 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.

THE EPISTLE: A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN 4:7-21

This reading teaches that God's love is made known to us through Jesus. In response we are to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but to experience God's love and to recognize Jesus as God's Son is to know God. Only by not loving other humans made in God's image would we show that we do not know and love God. When we do love one another, then we live in union with God and fear is driven away.

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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.***

SEQUENCE HYMN (10:00)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

HYMN 616 v. 1-3

THE HOLY GOSPEL *(Please rise as able.)*

JOHN 15:1-8

Our Gospel teaches that Jesus is the true vine to which each branch must be united if it is to bear fruit. The vine and the vineyard were well known symbols for God's people. A living relationship with Jesus in the following of his teaching is the source of fruitful discipleship. God will cut away the dead branches and prune the healthy ones so that they will bear more abundantly.

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

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."

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

SEQUENCE HYMN (10:00)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

HYMN 616 v. 4-5

THE HOMILY

REV. JEAN BENISTE

THE NICENE CREED

P. 358

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM IV

P. 388

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY (10:00)

As Long as I Have Breath

S. FARRAR

DOXOLOGY (10:00)

HYMN 380 v.3

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

All things come from You, O Lord,
And of Your own have we given to You.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP P. 361

SANCTUS (10:00)

HYMNAL S-130

(The people stand, sit, or kneel as able).

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(chanted, led by the choir)*

BCP P. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (4:30 PM, 8:00 AM)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI (10:00)

HYMNAL S-164

THE INVITATION

All who yearn to be transformed and fed by God are welcome to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ at the Lord's Table. Come forward to the altar rail, hold out your hands, and the priest will offer you the host, then the Eucharistic Minister will offer you the cup, take the rim of the cup and drink from it. Please do not intinct (dunk) the host. If you choose not to drink from the cup, please cross your arms and please allow the Eucharistic Minister to say the words: "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." Then return to your seat. Please let us know if you require a consecrated gluten-free wafer.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION (10:00)

*I come with joy to meet my Lord
Lead Me Lord*

**WREN/LAND OF REST
S. WESLEY**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: **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.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 632 (10:00) *O Christ, the Word Incarnate*

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Gavotte

J.S. BACH

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Pet Cross by Charlotte Cross.*

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**We are all (including you!) called to be ministers to one another.
and to those around us by participating in God's work in the world.**

Ministers serving at worship today.

Clergy	Rev. Jean Beniste, Rector
Clergy in Residence	Rev. Mary Beale, Br. Charles Edward OLW, Rev. Nancy Packard, Rev. Nancy Baillie Strong
Choir Director	John Spring
Organist/Piano	R.P. Hale, Catharine Dornin
Altar Guild	Kristin, Dunklee, Signa Watts
Lectors (4:30)	John Cabibi
Vestry on Duty (4:30)	Leslie Farmer
Lectors (8:00)	Kristin Dunklee, Jim Milliken, Michael Sauve, Sarah Nyhand
Chalice (8:00)	Ginnie Schartner, Sarah Nyhan
Acolytes (8:00)	Phil Denoncourt
Ushers (8:00)	David Levesque, Jack Nelson
Vestry on Duty (8:00)	Rita Morrison
Video (8:00)	Tamar Roberts
Lectors (10:00)	Linda Douglas, Joanne Martin, Jerry Tepe, Anne Huff
Chalice (10:00)	Kathy Gray, Judy Wood
Acolytes (10:00)	Jim Barker
Ushers (10:00)	Judy Goodnow, Tamar Roberts
Vestry on Duty (10:00)	Allwynne Fine
Video (10:00)	Randy Roberts

Coming Up This Week

Tuesday & Thursday

7:30 am: Morning Prayer on Zoom

12:10 pm: Noon Day Eucharist in the chapel

Saturday, May 4

4:30 pm: Worship service

Sunday, May 5

8:00 am: Worship service

9:00 am – Noon: Chapter Two Thrift Store is OPEN

10:00 am: Worship service, with music

11:30 am: Youth Group Meeting for teenagers and interested adults in Ordway Hall. Food will be served.
Please sign up in the upper parish hall.

Announcements

Chris Rawson, Parish Administrator is on vacation April 24-30. He will be back in the office on May 1.

St. Paul's Church would love to have more worship participants. If you are a parishioner who would like to be involved as an acolyte, usher, lector, or Eucharistic minister, please see Tamar Roberts or email admin@stpaulsconcord.org.

Family Promise will be hosted at St. Paul's May 5 – 12. Please look in the Friday Update for the link to sign up to bring dinner or to stay overnight.

Holy Baptism/Confirmation/Reception If there are any adults or children who are ready to be baptized, confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, please contact the office.

The Spiritual Formation committee is offering a Spring 2024 program. **Session 3 focuses on Prayer & Worship through Christian Hope pp. 856 - 862** in the Book of Common Prayer

TODAY Sunday April 28, in-person between the services in Ordway Hall

Monday, April 29, online via Zoom at 7pm. Link will be in the Friday Update.

Tuesday, April 30, online via Zoom at 11am. Link will be in the Friday Update.

Thursday, May 2, in-person in the chapel after noon Eucharist

Anytime on St. Paul's Catechism WhatsApp Group, with optional 1 hour live chat TBD

Concord Chorale Concert, May 4 at 8:00 pm & May 5 at 4:00 pm hosted at St. Paul's Church. Ticket information can be found at concordchorale.org/tickets

RaiseRight Gift Cards Mother's Day is Sunday May 12th. If you plan on treating a special mother in your life, consider purchasing your gift with a RaiseRight gift card so that a portion of the sale can support Saint Paul's. You can find a list of participating retailers at raiserright.com. Please see Theresa Neves during coffee hours for more info.

The Comfort Food Ministry takes meals to parish members who have a need due to short term health or mobility issues. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare a meal occasionally, please see Mary Waples or email your name and contact info to admin@stpaulsconcord.org.

The Philadelphia Eleven, TODAY Sunday, April 28, 2 p.m at St. Andrew's Church, Hopkinton. The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire (ECNH) is celebrating 50 years of women's ordination and the many ways the brave women and men who made this happen have continued to bless the church. Join us to watch the powerful and inspirational documentary, "The Philadelphia 11," and then share in the panel discussion following.

Hours

Office: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Food Pantry: Mon, Tues, Thurs, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm & Wed. Noon-2:00pm

Chapter Two Thrift Shop: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
and the First Sunday of the Month 9:00 am - Noon

Contact Us

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