



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, NY

Sunday Service
The 5th Sunday of Easter

In-Person & Zoom Worship
April 28, 2024 □ 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Lyn Burns

Loose Plate Offering

Missions

Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:

<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>

Prelude

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 48 "O day of radiant gladness"

(Please stand as the Crucifer and Officiant enter)

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect of 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.**

The Collect for Easter 5

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 First Lesson: 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.

At the conclusion of the reading the lector says

“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches”

People respond: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 22:24-30 *to be said by alternating ½ verse*

Deus, Deus meus

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.

Epistle: 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.

At the conclusion of the reading the lector says:

“Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches”

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

Gradual Hymn "God is love, let heaven adore him" Hymn 379
save the last verse until after Gospel

The Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Presider:

The Holy gospel of our Lord and Savior 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

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.”

After the Gospel Reading:

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily (*Please be seated*)

The Rev. Lyn Burns

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand*)

BCP 358-359

The Prayers of the People:

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... in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of Bangladesh, and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Paul's Church, Kinderhook. We pray also for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jeremiah our Bishop and Diane and Lyn our priests, Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry...we pray for those who are hungry throughout the world, especially in Gaza, the Sudan, Syria, and the Ukraine. We pray for the poor and hungry in our own country. Nourish us all with your word and sacraments. 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...strengthen our ties within our Diocese and our local community. 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 and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. We pray especially for **Margaret, Charlie, Carolyn, Rob, Geoffrey, Alex, Lois, Abra, Mike Beverly, , Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Steven, Tom, Chris, Eve, Ella, Louis, John, Arnold, Alicia, Sarge and Yvonne.**

Are there others?

pause 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...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.*

Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

The Peace

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays this week: Paul Crier & Pat Ingram

Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ANNOUCEMENTS (*Please be seated*)

OFFERTORY Hymn 529 "In Christ there is no east or west"

Doxology

Hymn 380, v. 3

**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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Presider:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

S130

The Presider continues:

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the

said: "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St John, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People:

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

Presider:

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

**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.**

Presider: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem

S164

Presider:

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

Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.

Communion

For those worshipping on Zoom, the following prayer is suggested to deepen your spiritual communion:

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 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.*

The Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us Pray

Creator of all, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ to 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.

The Blessing

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.....

CLOSING HYMN 344 "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing"

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into the world in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia

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

Postlude

*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.
Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall*

Ministers of the Service

Usher Greeters: Julie Wever & Kevin O'Neill

Altar Guild: Rinda Foster

Altar Flowers: Carole Harsh

Lector: Kevin O'Neill

Intercessor: Megan Harris Pero

Crucifer: Joel Pero

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Darcey Hale

Acolytes: Louisa & Lauren Pero

Zoom host: Heather Maxey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Bob & Carole Harsh

Cantor: Michael Bergman

Organist & Music Director: Jennifer Moore

