

The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Year B

April 28, 2024



CHRIST CHURCH  
EPISCOPAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA  
ESTABLISHED 1733





CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL  
SAVANNAH

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA  
ESTABLISHED 1733

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Entrance Rite

Prelude <i>Carillon</i>	Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)
Processional	Hymnal 657
<i>Love divine, all loves excelling</i>	<i>Hyfrydol</i>
Children's Chapel follows the procession. Suggested ages are pre-K through fifth grade; younger children are welcome if accompanied by adults.	
Opening Acclamation and Response	BCP 355
<i>Officiant</i> Alleluia. Christ is risen.	
<i>People</i> The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.	
The Collect for Purity	BCP 355
Gloria in excelsis	Hymnal S-278
	William Mathias (1934–1992)
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. <i>Amen.</i>	

### The Word of God

#### First Lesson

#### 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.

*Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch*, Herman Nawiwinx. 1623. Musée du Louvre.

Psalm 22:24–30

*Deus, Deus meus*

BCP 610

*Sung by the choir.*

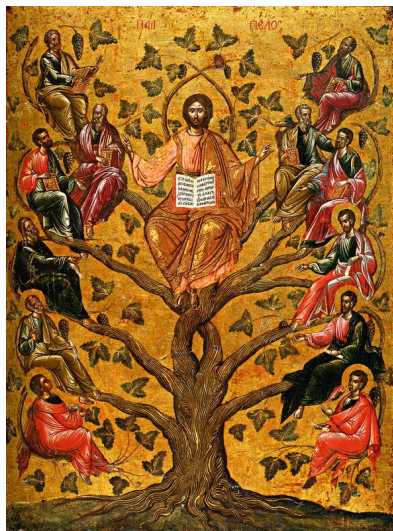
chant: Kenneth O'Hara (b. 1990)

- 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.

*Christ the True Vine (Christ vrai cep)* icon. 16th century. Athens, Greece.

Sequence Hymn

*Thou art the way, to thee alone*

Hymnal 457

*St. James*

### Holy Gospel

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;

### John 15:1–8



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.”

*American Gothic*, Grant Wood. 1930. The Art Institute of Chicago.

Sermon	The Reverend Michael S. White, <i>Rector</i>
Nicene Creed	BCP 358
Prayers of the People, Form III	BCP 387
The Peace	

## The Holy Communion

Offertory <i>I will lift up mine eyes</i>	L. Sowerby
---	------------

The text is a version of Psalm 121, found on page 779 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Presentation of the Gifts	Hymnal 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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving, <i>Eucharistic Prayer A</i>	BCP 361
Sanctus and Benedictus	Hymnal S-125
from <i>A Community Mass</i>	Richard Proulx (1937–2010)
The Lord’s Prayer	BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem	Hymnal S-155
<i>Christ Our Passover</i>	Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

All Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Holy Communion	Hymnal 323
“O rest in the Lord” from <i>Elijah</i> , Op. 70	Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Kristen Dubenion-Smith, *mezzo-soprano*

<i>Bread of heaven, on thee we feed</i>	<i>Jesu, Jesu, du mein Hirt</i>
---	---------------------------------

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

The Easter Blessing

Processional

Hymnal 379

*God is Love, let heaven adore him*

*Abbot's Leigh*

Dismissal

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 547*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)



## **Prayers of the People\***

For the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and places of conflict around the world: for strength, hope, perseverance, and protection; for liberation from violence and oppression; for the end of war and the laying down of weapons.

**Also for** Mike Baggett, Sara and Ruben; Anderson Chambers, Beatrice Coker, Eric Von Duke

**For the Birthdays of** Bob Clark, Liv Dugas, Bill Haile, Vivi Truex, Alice Clark, Catherine Vouk, Thomas Cone, Whit Davis, Hudson Harrison, Betsy Myers, Trey Myers, Elizabeth Bush, Pamela Crenshaw, Wills Davis, MJ Harris, Roman Maynard, Kit McDonald, Julian Bringman, Paul Reddick, Peter Wright, Max Maxwell, Matthew King, Sam Mikell, Colson Sapp, Catherine Holden, Kingston Myers, Margaret Miller, Carrie Reeves, Ruth Goldsmith, Ruth Hallman, Mimi Jones, Sarah Smith, Emma Reardon, Mary Helen Skeadas, Micah Smith, Geoff Taylor, Elizabeth North, Catherine Renner, Robb Rilee, Tyler Sumner, Stan Houle, Linda McWhorter, Kwasi Agyei-Gyamfi, Rudell Lawrence

**For the Wedding Anniversaries of** Paige and Michael Carson, Gigi and Bill Haile, Kate and Marc Bailey, Elizabeth and Royce Abbott, Cindy and Rusty Hightower, Margaret and John Northup, Erin and Stephen Ham, Betty and Jim Pember

**For Those Who Have Died and for the Comfort of Their Families:** Zed Layson, Mary Kumjian, Dr. Jim Repella, Chris Butler Ball, Ruth (Peggy) Cain Lynah, Kevin Jackson, Doug Foster

\*The full prayer list may be found on our website and in our weekly email.



## Announcements

### Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birth of Thomas Matthews Harper, son of Caroline and Sam Harper and grandson of Catherine and Joe Gussler.

### This Week at Christ Church

#### Sunday, April 28 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum (Chapel)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Service Project with Over the Moon
- 4:00 p.m. Concerts at Christ Church: *To Build a Home*

#### Monday through Friday, April 29–May 3

- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Docent Tours

#### Wednesday, May 1

- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing
- 12:30 p.m. Mid-day Music. *If Music Be the Food of Love*
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Next Sunday at Christ Church

#### Sunday, May 5 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum (Chapel)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Senior Recognition
- No Choristers following the service

### Youth Service Project with Over the Moon

*Sunday, April 28, following the 10:30 a.m. service*

All middle and high school students are invited to take part. Immediately after church on April 28, we will head to the Parish House for lunch and then a service project with Over the Moon Diaper Bank, packing diaper and period supplies for our Chatham County neighbors. Our work will finish by 2:00 p.m. Please let Rev. Samantha know if you can make it!

**Concerts at Christ Church: *To Build a Home*,  
Musica Atlantica & Bridge Voices**

*Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.*

Join us for this concert of choral music centered on themes of homecoming, vulnerability, and what it means to belong. Savannah choral ensemble Musica Atlantica joins with Washington D.C.-based Bridge Voices to offer this hour-long program of music stretching from the English Reformation up through a world premiere of a new work by Baltimore composer Jonathan Woody.

**Reflections on Easter: Theme and Variations**

*April 7–May 12, Adult Forum in the Chapel, 9:30 a.m.*

Join us in the Chapel during the Easter season as we discover the wonderful variations found in the life-changing theme of Easter. Borrowing a concept from musical compositions, we will begin with one theme: Easter. Different Easter stories from Scripture will be shared, and we will listen each week as a new variation flows forth and transforms us. Variations include forgiveness, reconciliation, joy, and peace.

**If Music Be the Food**

*Wednesday, May 1, 12:30 p.m.*

Join us immediately following the noon Eucharist on Wednesday for the second-to-last program in this year's series. Hear George Fergus play some festive and fun organ music as you gear up for warmer weather!

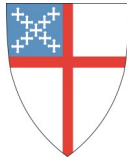
**University of Alabama: University Singers**

*Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.*

Please join us on Tuesday, May 7, for a free concert presented by the University Singers from the University of Alabama, under the direction of Dr. Morgan Luttig. This program, entitled "The Alchemist", is part of their spring regional tour.

Photos from April 21, 2024





## CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Frank S. Logue, *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Michael S. White, *Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Reverend Helen S. White, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

The Reverend Dr. Bertice Berry, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

Suzanne Phillips Smith, *Parish Administrator*

Charles L. Epps, *Sexton*

The Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Richard "Max" Maxwell, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend David C. Seyle, *United Methodist Pastor-in-Residence*

### Vestry

Stephen R. Rilee, *Senior Warden*; Washington C. Dender, *Junior Warden*;

Sarah B. Smith, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Patton W. Dugas, *Treasurer*;

Catherine M. Gussler, *Assistant Treasurer for Stewardship and Finance*;

Lindsey A. Eberle; Katherine J. Griffith; Stephanie C. Lindley;

Rosemary W. Mackey; Elizabeth L. Macfadyen; Roger Moss, Jr.;

Rena K. Patton; Paul D. Reddick; Paul H. Threlkeld;

Polly C. Webster; Susan H. Wetmore

### Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery, located on the 2nd floor of the Parish House at 18 Abercorn

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Church building is located at 28 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

The telephone number is 912-236-2500

[www.christchurchsavannah.org](http://www.christchurchsavannah.org)

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site.