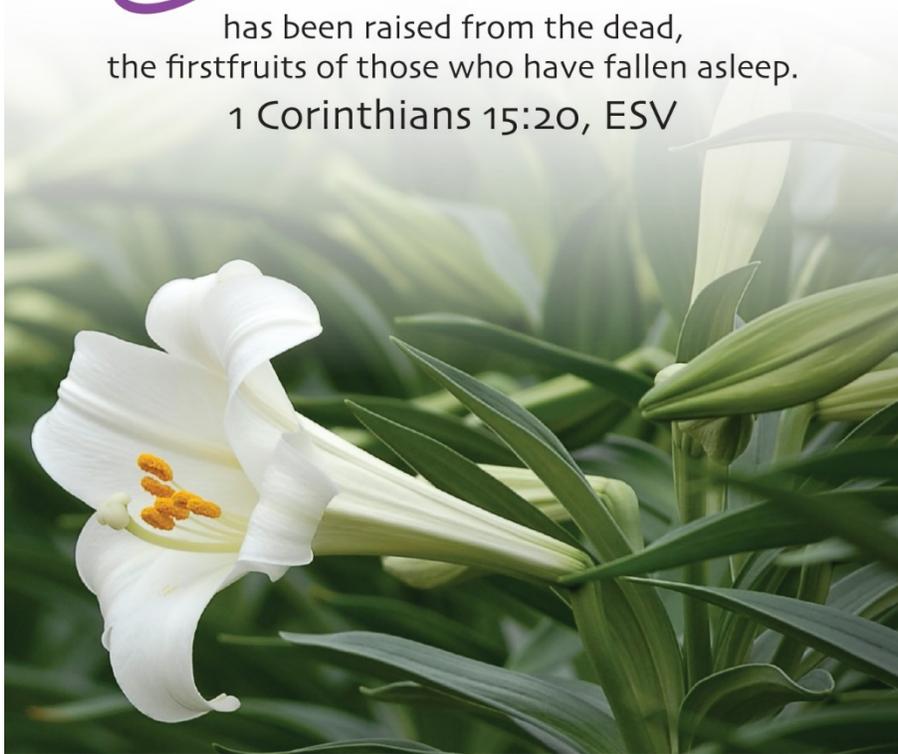


Christ

has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV



*Held in the Hands of God...
Reaching our Hands out to others*

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

12 Prospect Street

Babylon, New York

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year B

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Rite II

Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Prelude

Opening Hymn *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

Hymnal 296

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;
And our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia!
2. We share by water in his saving death,
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia!
3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son and life.
The Spirit's power shakes and Church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia!
4. A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole we sing:
Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Song of Praise *Gloria*

BCP p 356

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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect

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.*

First Lesson A Reading from the Book of Acts

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. *Acts 8:26-40*

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

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.

Epistle A Reading from the First Letter of John

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. *1st John 4:7-21*

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God

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

People 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." *John 15:1-8*

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

Mother Nesmith

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

The Prayers of the People

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Therefore I ask you, who praise the loving-kindness of almighty God, to join in prayer for all of God's people, and for all people everywhere according to their needs. That all may know the benefits of the paschal victory of Christ, we pray, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant that your Church, constant in faith and love, may bring forth good fruit ... Give unity to all her branches in the strength of Christ, the true vine ... Make her ministers wise in the teaching of Holy Scripture.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Enlighten all in the world who earnestly desire to find the truth, and lead them to those who can show them the way ... With your love, cast out the fear that destroys fullness of life.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bless those who have recently been baptized and those who are preparing for baptism, especially Logan Tighe-Connolly and his family ... Keep us ready to help by our words and examples others who are seeking you.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Have mercy on those who are without security of living and have lost their sense of purpose ... Bring them back to the one sure source of life in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Grant to all who suffer the knowledge of where true healing is to be found ... Heal the hurt and broken bodies, give peace to the troubled minds, restore hope to the grieved and anxious spirits ... We pray especially for [*insert list*] Lead all human sorrow through the pain of the dying Christ to the joy of his Resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We celebrate with and give thanks for our Christ Church family, for [*insert special thanks*], for the birthdays of [*insert list*], and wedding anniversaries of [*insert list*]. We give thanks for all these blessings and for all who are blessings in our lives, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as He loves us.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for the departed, especially [*insert list*], that their love may be made perfect in your presence ... Have pity on those whose lives on earth seem withered and fruitless, that they may find fullness of life at last.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Celebrant:

Hear our prayers on behalf of those for whom we pray, and give us peace in this time of our Paschal rejoicing, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen and eternal Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

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

Ephesians 5:2

During this time of pandemic, the people are asked to place their offerings, their alms and oblations, on the greeters' table in the offering basket, either before or after the worship service.

Refrain

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain*

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain*

The priest prepares the altar for the celebration and offering of the Eucharist Feast

Offertory Response

Priest All things come from you, O Lord
People And of your own have we given back to you.

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B)

BCP p 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people continue standing

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Glorious and Ever-blessed Mary, Saints Francis and Clare and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p 364

Officiant And now as our Savior Christ hath 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Invitation to Communion

Priest 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.

Communion

A Prayer for those who are unable to physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ at this time.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you are already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; permit not that I should ever be separated from you. Amen.

Post-communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.

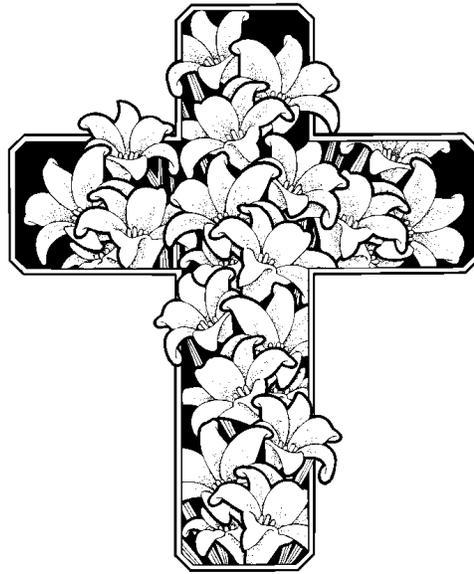
Priest and People together

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

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Announcements



Closing Hymn *In Christ there is no East or West*

Hymnal 529

1 In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.

3 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, walking in the Way of Love. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer List for Sunday, May 2, 2021

Let us offer prayers of healing, comfort and strength for:

Barbara & Frank, Bill D., Bob M. Bob C., Bob N., Bonnie H., Deb, Eileen & Kirstin, Grace, James, Joanne, Karen, Lydia, Mama Clare, Nora, Phil B., Ronnie, Sandy, Elizabeth, Sr. Joy, Nancy, Shannon, Jeff, Charles, Kristin, Rosemary, Bonnie S., Millie, Janine, Murray, Donna, Virginia, Fran, Michele, John, Peggy, Jake, Renne, Gina, Mike, The Caribbean Island of St. Vincent, The Hannan Family, Suzanne, Jasiah, Alijah, and the whole Reid Family

We pray for all across the United States and the globe suffering from Covid-19 especially the people of India. We pray for all who are worried about their loved ones and friends who suffer and are hospitalized, and those who are in grief following the death of their loved ones from this disease. We pray for those who still do not understand the seriousness of this disease.

We pray for all living in congregate settings: nursing homes, assisted living and other senior facilities, group homes, prisons, and jails, and in all places where people must live closely together.

We pray for all those in the field of medicine: doctors, nurses, nurses' aides, therapists, and all who work in hospitals and group settings including building engineers and building custodians. We pray for those in medical research, for those working to administer the vaccine, and for all those working in public health, especially Nancy and our local Suffolk County Dept. of Health. And we pray for all who work in public safety, all emergency personnel and first responders.

We pray for all who are struggling economically during this time, for those who are unemployed and under-employed, those who are hungry and food insecure, and those who are homeless or fear eviction or foreclosure. We give thanks for and pray for all those involved in feeding ministries and with the homeless ministry, especially for those volunteers who give of their energy and passion to Nourish Babylon.

We give thanks for all who continue to work behind the scenes to keep our church running over these many months we have not been able to gather in the building.

Let us celebrate and pray for those celebrating birthdays: Patricia Williams, Kaileen Langstone, Madison Scharf, Vera Langstone, Michael Reha

Let us celebrate and pray for those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Karen & John Chung

Let us pray for those who have died:

We pray for Desmond Reid, in whose memory the flowers on the Altar this morning are offered, and Vivian A. Wilson, in whose memory the bread and wine are given, all to the glory of God. We pray for the over 573,000 who have died of Covid-19 in our country, and we pray for all who have died as a result of gun violence and racial violence, especially those who have been killed in the past weeks. We pray for their family members and friends who mourn and we pray for a time when we will not fear gun violence.

Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP p 815

All Are Welcome

Christ Episcopal Church of Babylon represents and celebrates the diversity that is Long Island. We welcome everyone and believe that there should be no outcasts in the Episcopal Church. Our welcome knows no boundaries of marital status, age, race, ethnicity, cultural or religious background, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic condition, and physical or mental ability. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Episcopal Church.

This is God's House...

and we are blessed by the gift of your presence with us. In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please let the priest know by crossing your arms in front of your chest when you come forward. Gluten-free bread is available; please ask at the communion rail.

Handicapped Accessibility

Our building is equipped with a lift located in the Sanctuary Annex, and a handicapped bathroom located on the lower level. For full access of the building and to join us for Coffee Hour downstairs, please ask a Greeter for assistance.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Until further notice: 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
During this time of coronavirus, we are livestreaming all services,
and will be in-person outdoors weather permitting.
In-person Sunday School is suspended for the present time.

Church Officers and Vestry

John Foley, Warden (2023)	Diane Gaidon, Warden (2022)	
Anne Napolitano, Treasurer	Vikki Boning, Clerk	
Jackie Barnes (2022)	Desmond Reid (2023)	Vikki Boning (2024)
Karen Drummond (2022)	Lynn Simmons (2023)	Kathy Hannan (2024)
Annette Lepsis (2022)	Blosome Whyte (2023)	Vera Langstone (2024)

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island
The Rev. E. Clare Nesmith, Rector
Nancy Hemendinger, Organist/Choir Director

Parish Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Christ Episcopal Church

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