

8:00 SERVICE



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003
www.st-john-aptos.org



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

Welcome to St. John's!

Restrooms are located on both ends of the building.

For prayer requests, email prayer@st-john-aptos.org (routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request immediately upon receipt of the message.)

† The Liturgy of the Word †

Opening Acclamation

BCP 351

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

Presider 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 *BCP 356*

All **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.**

Collect of the Day

BCP

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray. (Silence.) 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 Reading: Acts 8:26-40

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing before continuing.

Psalm 22:24-30

BCP Version

- 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.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the bell ringing before continuing.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Presider 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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and 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

BCP Form III, p. 387

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Cycles of Prayer

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Philip the Apostle, Scotts Valley. From our parish prayer list, we pray for Suzanne, Brian, Andy and Joel.

We pray for the Rector Transition Team. Shepherd us, Holy Spirit, as we follow in faith where You have led the way. Help us acknowledge and rejoice in our differences, comfort our anxieties, open our hearts as we listen to each other and receive God's gift of discernment. Help us be patient, and trust in Your wisdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

For what else do the people of God pray?

At this point, the People may add their own petitions.

Concluding Collect

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Because the sharing of the peace symbolizes being reconciled with one another before receiving communion, it is particularly appropriate to seek out anyone with whom you may have had a conflict recently and offer a sign of peace at this time.

Welcome to Visitors

Announcements

Community Prayers for Birthdays, Baptism & Wedding Anniversaries, & Travelers

Presider Watch over _____, O Lord, as their days increase;

People **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 understanding abide all the days of their lives.**

Presider We ask for courage, patience and vision for Jack Beebe (5/1), Karen Hellgren (5/1) and Susan von Schmacht (5/1) who celebrate their baptism anniversaries this week.

People **Strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others.**

Presider Send your blessing upon Chris Rowen & Anne Baker (5/1) and Clifford & Isla Hall (5/1), as they celebrate their wedding anniversaries.

People **May they so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience that their homes may be a havens of blessing and peace.**

Presider O God, whose glory fills your whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go, preserve _____ as they travel.

People **Surround them with your loving care, protect them from every danger, and bring them in safety to their journey's end. Amen.**

† The Holy Communion †

The Offertory Sentence

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” *Ephesians 5:2*

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; but chiefly are we 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:

All **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.**

Presider 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.”

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider And we offer this 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 St. John the Baptist 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 364

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one's commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread.

The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. At this time we are not allowing intinction, dipping the bread into the wine chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen." If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email LEVs@st-john-aptos.org.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 366

All Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Easter Blessing

Common Worship (Church of England)

Presider God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

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

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Serving Today at 8:00 a.m.

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Eliza Linley, Interim Pastor
Server: Sally Lewis
Lector: Bob Nelson
Lector: Bart Coddington
Usher: Bart Coddington
Altar Guild: Cindy Phillips, Wilma Staver, Eileen Fernald, Tina Grubbe, Andrew Pudan



The Leadership of St. John's

Ministers: All of us!



Clergy Staff

The Rev. Eliza Linley (“Amma Eliza”)
Interim Pastor, rector@st-john-aptos.org

Lay Staff staff@st-john-aptos.org

Chrys Sparks, Office Manager
admin@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 708-6850 (cell)

Andrew S. Carter, Director of Music Ministries
music@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 291-2888 (cell)

Matt McCabe, Sexton
matt@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 419-4998 (cell)

Diane Scofield, Interim Helpful Shop Manager
helpfulshop@st-john-aptos.org, 831-295-1142 (cell)

Rosa Miriam Escobar, Janitor

Lisa Freeman, Community Youth Prog. Director
community-youth@st-john-aptos.org, 831-854-7265 (cell)

Realm (view directory & giving info, post messages to parishioners)
www.onrealm.org (contact the office for a password)

Assisting Clergy clergy@st-john-aptos.org
The Rev. Mary Craig Caruthers (“Rev. Mary Craig”)
The Rev. John Duncan (“Father John”)
The Rev. Mary Lou McKenney (“Rev. Mary Lou”)

Vestry (Governing Board)

To reach the entire vestry, email vestry@st-john-aptos.org.

Administration Team vestry-admin@st-john-aptos.org
Win Fernald, Senior Warden
Anne Baker, Junior Warden
Kathy Butler, Clerk of the Vestry
Nelson Crandall, Treasurer
Jon Showalter

Internal Ministry Support Team

vestry-internal@st-john-aptos.org
Liz Lindsley, Antonette Wood, Elaine Chapman, Tom Butler

External Ministry Support Team

vestry-external@st-john-aptos.org
Joanna Phillips, Susan von Schmacht, Vibeke Orsini