



St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, May 7th, 2023, 10.30am

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Youth Sunday**

Welcome to Our Guests

We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE

Prelude in C

J S Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 379 *God is love, let heaven adore him*

THE WORD OF GOD

p. 355

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant 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 GLORIA

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A-men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 LESSONS

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: ACTS 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

Sung by soloist

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE EPISTLE: 1 PETER 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 525 *The Church's one foundation*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14

All stand

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON Mr. Brett Westhauser (EYC Senior)

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

The Celebrant and People say together

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 (FORM VI)

All kneel as able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, and Duncan and Deonna our priests, and all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence (The People may add their own petitions.)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Priest and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.

Offertory Voluntary *This Joyful Eastertide*

Andrew Carter

All stand to sing the Offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER A)

All stand. p.361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS (S128)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

All kneel as they are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast Alleluia.**

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

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.

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.

Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as they are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 BLESSING

All kneel.

The Celebrant blesses the people

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Therefore go out as God's own people to proclaim the mighty acts of God in Christ. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN 194 *Jesus lives, thy terrors now*

THE DISMISSAL

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

THE POSTLUDE

Voluntary in A

John Stanley

TODAY'S SERVERS

Acolytes: Susannah Miller, Allie Fitzpatrick, Parker Mantooth, Molly Selman, Brett Westhauser

Lector and Intercessor: Allie Fitzpatrick

Eucharistic Ministers: Holden Habermacher, Mark Chappell, Morgan Chappell

Ushers/Greeters: Bobby Eskridge, Walton Norrell, Wyatt Wells III, Josie Eskridge, William Hayne, Ellen Habermacher

Altar Guild: Josie Eskridge

Flower Guild: Kitty Coleman, Marguerite Wood

Flower Delivery Team: Carma Marks, Jeanette Lynn, George Mathews Videographer

Instrumentalists: Robert Scott, *flute*; Bob Hoit, *clarinet*; David Simpson, *bassoon*.

Altar Flowers given in memory of: Algernon Sidney Coleman, Sr., Lucy Oliver Coleman, Algernon Sidney Coleman, Jr., William Irwin Grubb, Margaret Walker Grubb, Eugenia Grubb Schanbacher, Frances Harris Garrett, William A. (Billy) Hughes

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Anne Phillips Arrington, Bill Bowman, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Larry Worriow

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gigi Boyd, Hope Hamblin, Wilber Hill, Sr., Wilber Hill Jr., Ashley Freeman, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor

Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care. The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.

Pastoral Care Team for May:

Kitty Coleman, Betty Mathews, Mary Simmons, Mary Ward Wisnewski

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rector's Forum: To the Ends of the Earth. This course will follow the growth and development of the early church in the book of Acts. We will discover the uncanny similarities between the earliest church in the pre-Christian world and today's church in the post-Christian West. Together we will discover clues as to how churches can reach into our neighborhoods in ways that are biblical and fruitful.

Anger and Meekness: Spiritual Insights. Deonna will lead a 10-week course exploring anger and meekness through the spiritual teachings of the 4th century desert monastic and ascetic Evagrius Ponticus. The course will use the book *Dragon's Wine and Angels Bread* by Gabriel Bunge. The course will go through June 25th with no class on May 14th. The book can be purchased in the bookstore or online.

Pill Counting Sessions This Sunday, May 7th, immediately after lunch on the 3rd floor. The session generally runs for two hours or so, but you can come for any amount of time that you can spare.

VBS Registration open now! You'll need to bring your A-game for this fun VBS. Kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over". Registration deadline May 26th.



Meals on Wheels: 1st and 5th Mondays, starting in May. St. John's will be partnering with MACOA to deliver meals to Seniors. Ride along training available. Email constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org.



Mercy House: Volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM -12:00 P.M each Thursday to serve hot meals at Mercy House. Mercy House is a day shelter serving West Montgomery by providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities and laundry facilities. For questions of more information please contact Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989.

Text to Give: You now have an additional way to give to St. John's. Whether it's a pledge payment, a memorial, or any other type of payment, you can text "stjohnsmgm" to 833-251-1449.