



# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Baptism

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☞ Richmond, Virginia

*This weekend, we recognize the 50th anniversary of women in the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. In celebration of that anniversary, today's services feature a number of music selections composed by women or that highlight the role of women in the church. Notes with additional information about these choral and instrumental pieces can be picked up at Information Central or found online at [ststephensRVA.org/music-notes](http://ststephensRVA.org/music-notes).*

**Voluntary**      The women at the tomb

Dorothy Papadakos

## The Word of God

**Hymn 379**      God is love: let heaven adore him      *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*Abbot's Leigh*

### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 299

**Celebrant**      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People**      **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Celebrant**      There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People**      **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

**Celebrant**      One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People**      **One God and Father of all.**

### The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 225

**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

**Celebrant**      Let us pray.      *Silence is kept.*

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 Lesson**      1 John 4:7-21      *Please sit.*

**Reader**      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.

**Reader**      The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**      *A period of silence is kept.*

The antiphon will be sung once by the choir, then repeated by all. The verses will be sung by the choir.



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the Lord.

- 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. *Antiphon*
- 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. *Antiphon*
- Silence is kept.*

**Hymn 487** Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life *Sung by all, standing.* *The Call*

**The Gospel** John 15:1-8 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

**Deacon** 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.”

**Deacon** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** The Rev. Weezie Blanchard

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidates** *Remain seated.* Prayer Book, page 301

**Celebrant** The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

**Parents and Godparents** **I present Henry Boushall Holzbach to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**  
**I present Briggs Boushall Valentine to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**  
**I present Basil Quinerly Jones to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**  
**I present William Felix Mullery to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**  
**I present Jane Branch Stephenson to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

**Celebrant** Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents and Godparents** I will, with God’s help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?  
 Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?  
 Parents and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures  
 of God?  
 Parents and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?  
 Parents and Godparents I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?  
 Parents and Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?  
 Parents and Godparents I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?  
 Parents and Godparents I do.

*The Celebrant invites the congregation to stand and addresses them, saying*

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their  
 life in Christ?  
 People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own  
 baptismal covenant.

**The Baptismal Covenant**

*Remain standing.*

Prayer Book, page 304

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?  
 People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
 People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
 People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant People Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant People Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant People Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant People Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
**I will, with God's help.**

**Prayers for the Candidates**

Prayer Book, page 305

Celebrant Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized this morning into the death of Christ by water and the Spirit may live reborn in the freedom and power of his resurrection. Alongside this joy, we honor the pain of those who grieve today at the deaths of beloved ones, [remembering especially \_\_\_\_]. We also give thanks, O God, for all the blessings of this life, especially the gifts we have received from faithful women—lay and ordained—over these past fifty years. May their witness to your love continue to inspire us for generations to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*As the baptismal families move toward the font, all children are invited to come to the font to participate in the blessing of the water.*

**Thanksgiving over the Water**

*Please remain standing and face the font.*

Prayer Book, page 306

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
 People **And also with you.**

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

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

Prayer Book, page 307

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*A priest then anoints the newly baptized with oil, saying*

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*All*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

## The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### The Holy Communion

*All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts to sustain God's work in the world. If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code.*



**At the Offertory** Make Way

*Sung by the choir.*

music: Rachel Bruerville; text: Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; make way.

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

**At the Presentation** *Sung by all, standing.*

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

*The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.*

**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. O praise him; O praise him;**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

*The people remain standing.*

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *Here a proper preface is said.*

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:

**Sanctus**

*Sung by all.*

Richard Proulx

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

*You may stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant*

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;**

*Celebrant*

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 blessed Stephen, the Blessed Virgin Mary, 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.**

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

Celebrant and People

Prayer Book, page 364

**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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

David Hurd

*Cantor:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All:*

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

### At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps or in one of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

### Music at Communion

**Anthem** *O sacrum convivium*  
*O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur;  
recolitur memoria passionis ejus;  
mens impletur gratia;  
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

*Sung by the choir.* Stephanie Martin  
O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received,  
the memory of his Passion is renewed,  
the mind is filled with grace,  
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

**Hymn 513** Like the murmur of the dove's song

*Sung by all, seated.*

*Bridegroom*

