



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024, AT 8 AM

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

*Please keep a prayerful quiet as we prepare for worship.
Our liturgy is drawn from a variety of resources. Please see endnotes for references.
The People's responses are printed in **bold**.*

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Sentences

Blessed be the God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. —1 Peter 1:3-4

Song of Praise *said by all*

Glory to you, O God:

You have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:

For us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

You lead us into truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

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 Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Faith Story *seated* Charles Taylor

This morning we continue our series of Faith Stories shared by members of the St. Columba's community. Each of us has a unique faith journey. Faith Stories are a way to share this journey and hear God speak through one another.

First Reading 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.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 *read responsively by whole verse*

My praise is of you in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek you shall praise you: ***

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

**For yours is the royal power, O God; *
you rule over the nations.**

To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before you.

**My soul shall live for you;
my descendants shall serve you; *
they shall be known as yours for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that you have done.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Father Mitchell Felton

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher. A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *standing as you are able*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Intercessor Almighty God, we pray for your church, that we may be true followers of the Risen Christ, whose final commandment was to love as he loves.

We rejoice in the Risen Christ **and trust in the Living God.**

In righteousness you judge the world and the peoples with equity. May our nation bear witness to your justice and equity, caring for the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the oppressed.

We rejoice in the Risen Christ **and trust in the Living God.**

Lift your countenance on all who need mercy, healing, and refreshment. We pray especially for . . . and all those needs we name aloud and in our hearts . . .

We rejoice in the Risen Christ **and trust in the Living God.**

We sing to you, O God, a new song, for you have done marvelous things. We pray in thanks for . . . and for the blessings we name aloud or in our hearts . . .

We rejoice in the Risen Christ **and trust in the Living God.**

God of Resurrection, we pray for all who have died, that they may join you in eternal bliss.

We pray especially for . . . and for the departed we name aloud or in our hearts . . .

We rejoice in the Risen Christ **and trust in the Living God.**

Surely your goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. Accept our prayers to you and be present with us as we journey through life with our Risen Savior; in the Holy Name of God we pray. **Amen.**

Peace *The Presider says to the People*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, “Peace be with you.” They were glad when they saw the Lord. — *John 20:19-20*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC> to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text SCEC and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions. Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward and blessed.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them unto God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise for the gospel we have received. Christ died for our sins. Alleluia.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Death comes to all, and sin reigns for a time. New life without end comes through Christ, and he reigns for ever. Alleluia. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Death is swallowed up in victory, the victory you give us in Christ. Alleluia. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

We have been crucified with Christ, and live his risen life, to praise you for ever with angels and archangels. And so we say:

Sanctus and Benedictus

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

God, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that Jesus was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Praise to you, O Christ:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: O Christ, come in glory.

Almighty God, calling to mind Christ's death on the cross, a perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Columba, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Savior; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence observed.

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

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. ■ If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. We do not allow dipping the bread into the wine. ■ Respond to communion by saying "Amen." ■ If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. ■ Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station. ■ Baptism is offered several times a year; speak to a priest to learn more.

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presider As we are gathered, fed, and sent by God, let us ask ourselves: With whom can I share the Good News? Whom will I invite to join us at this table?

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Ministers *when scheduled*

In the name of St. Columba's we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N. may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, as we all share one bread, one cup.

Blessing

The People respond **Amen.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Liturgical Note

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Easter is a season of 50 days of rejoicing. Our worship in this season gives glory to God for the resurrection of Christ. We light the paschal candle and use white and gold vestments as symbols of our celebration.

Land Acknowledgement

We meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging.

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St. Columba's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

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