

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Welcomes You!**

Easter 5

April 28, 2024
9:30 a.m.



Alleluia! He is risen!

Prelude: God's Blessing Be on Thee

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Allen James

Hymn 210: The Day of Resurrection

Ellacombe

- 1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.**
- 2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**
- 3. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Collect for Purity: 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 Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise Hymn: 205, vv. 1, 5

Gelobt sei Gott

- 1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 5. To God the Father, God the Son,
to God the Spirit, always One,
we sing for life in us begun:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day: 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.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40

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. The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 (People read the odd verses)

- 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.

A Reading From the First Letter of 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. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 379: God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him

Abbot's Leigh

**1 God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation: God is Love, eternal Love.**

**2 God is Love; and love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace:
With unfailing grasp God hold us, every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.**

**3 God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever o'er the universe must reign.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-8
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." The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon Mother Julie

The Prayers of the People and The Confession

A Prayer for the Election of a Presiding Bishop on June 26

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of the bishops who shall choose a presiding bishop for The Episcopal Church, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
that we all may be one.

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

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, DeDe our bishop, and Julie our priest;
that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him, especially Anthony, Carson, Donald, Gabriel, Robin, and Teddy, who are preparing for confirmation;
that they may grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

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

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza; and weather victims everywhere.

I ask your prayers for the sick, especially Emily, Wendy Wickenden, Dottie White, Kiki White, Sue Grosso, Kathleen Eckermann, David and Stuart Houston, Ray Houck, Chris Calhoun-Bryant, Shelby Calhoun, Anthony Necerato, Michael Smith, Charmae, Shannon, Jim Bell, Allen McMinn, Lucy Howton, Preston Hill, Dirk Deleeuw, Huldah Joseph, Jeff K., Gwendolyn Sterling, Shirley Kozicki, Heather, Annette, and those you name before God. (pause)

I ask your prayers for all who are isolated due to illness or infirmity.
We pray for those in any need or trouble;
that they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially those you name before God. (pause)
Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem: Partido

Anon. Spanish

The Doxology: Hymn 380, v.3

Old 100th

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

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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst forth; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy.

S124 Holy, holy, holy Lord

New Plainsong

**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.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for he remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: The cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these

gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**All Dying, you destroyed our death;
 Rising, you restored our life;
 Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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 Fraction

Fraction Anthem: S154

New Plainsong

**S154 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
 Christ our Passover is sacrifice for us.
 Therefore, let us keep the feast.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Celebrant This altar is not ours, it is the Lord's. So come to this altar
 you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more;
 you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long
 time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed.
 Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Spiritual Communion for those at home.

Dear People of God, the church teaches that, if anyone desires to receive the Sacrament, but is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth. I invite you therefore, to make an act of Spiritual Communion, by saying the following prayer.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*Those present in the church now receive communion.
All baptized people are welcome to receive the sacrament.*

If you don't wish Mother Julie to dip the wafer in the wine tell her, "No wine".

Communion Anthem: Andante Religioso

Edmund Sereno Ende

Celebrant 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**

The Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you like a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. (Saint Clare) And the blessing of God Almighty, (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Hymn 213: Come Away to the Skies

Middlebury

- 1. Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise
and rejoice in the day you were born;
on this festival day, come exulting away,
and with singing to Zion return.**
- 2. Now with singing and praise, let us spend all the days,
by our heavenly Father bestowed.
While his grace we receive from his bounty, and live
to the honor and glory of God.**
- 3. For the glory we were first created to share,
both the nature and kingdom divine!
Now created again that our lives may remain,
throughout time and eternity thine.**
- 4 We with thanks do approve the design of that love
which hath joined us to Jesus' Name;
so united in heart, let us nevermore part,
till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.**
- 5 Hallelujah we sing, to our Father and King,
and his rapturous praises, repeat:
To the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again,
sing, all heaven, and fall at his feet.**

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Jesus Christ.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude: Fantasy in E Flat

Georg Philipp Telemann

*The sanctuary candle is given to the glory of God,
and with prayers for my neighbor Emily,
by Phoebe Swope-Askeland.*

Today's Lay Ministers

Greeter: Jim Kowalczyk
Crucifer: Art Pichette
Altar Server: Margo Kowalczyk
Chalice: Meg Houston

First Reader: Grace Joseph
Second Reader: Meg Houston
Prayers: Anthony Necerato
Counter: Art Pichette

May 12: East Side Episcopalians with Bishop Duncan-Probe

We will gather at St. Alban's for the service of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
A festive reception follows the service.

May 19 is Pentecost!

Wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit!
There will be a continental breakfast after the service.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Wardens: Mary "Kiki" White and Gina Odell; Gelene Lewis, Emerita

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.