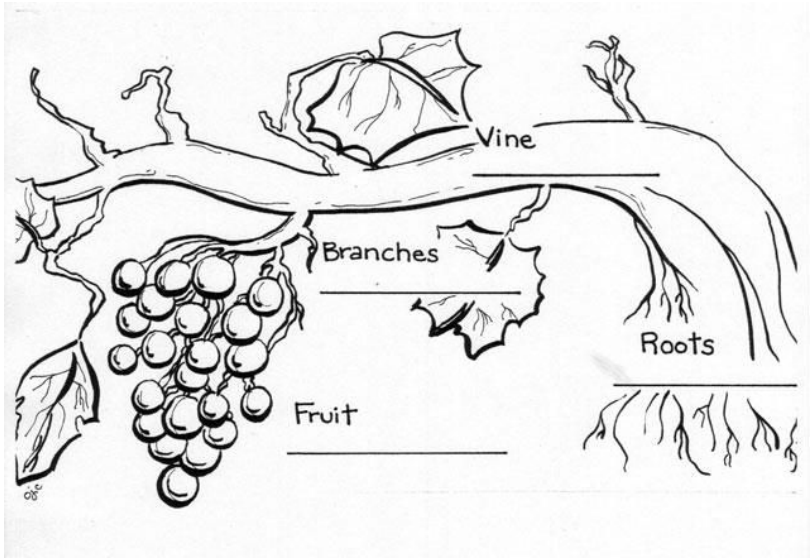


# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## YEAR B

APRIL 28, 2024, 11AM



Jesus said, “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... 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.”– John 15:1-2, 5

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

### Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)**

#### **LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

*In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we respect and honor with gratitude the land itself, the legacy of the ancestors, and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe*

#### **Bell Ringing**

<b>Prelude</b>	<b>Air in F Major</b>	<b>G. F. Handel</b>
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<b>Love divine, all loves excelling</b>	<b>H 657</b>

#### **The Liturgy of the Word**

##### **Opening Acclamation**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**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.**

<b>Song of Praise</b>	<b>Joyful, joyful, we adore thee</b>	<b>H 376</b>
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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of love, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. **Amen.**

## **A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8, verses 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:24-30** *Deus, Deus meus*

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.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was  
in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**A Reading from The First Letter of John, Chapter 4, verses 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn                      Be not dismayed, whate'er betide                      LEVAS 183**

The Holy Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Glorify 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**

**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks**

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

## The Prayers of the People

Our genesis is in you, O God, our beginnings are in Eden, our origins are those of all people. Forgive us the falseness of what we have become, the ugliness and division of which we are a part. Restore to us the truthfulness of our birth in you, the heritage of all that has being. Renew us in the genesis of our soul, the beauty of Eden deep within each created thing.

As the vine sustains its branches, so the earth in all its life-giving abundance sustains our lives. As we abide in the beauty and abundance of your world, help us to remember the perfection of the works of your creative power and to sustain creation as it sustains us. **May we abide on this earth as we abide in you.**

As those who are part of this parish, St Peter's, may we abide in you and walk in love with one another. Strengthen our faith. Grant us the grace to trust that you will provide all things necessary for our common life. Bring us to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. **May we abide with one another in this church as we abide in you.**

May all the nations of the world desire to seek your healing love and sustaining peace rather than the withering destruction of war. Today, we pray for the people of Gaza and of Israel, for the people of Haiti, the people of Sudan, and the people of Ukraine, asking that you would sustain them and give them your hope, courage, and peace. Until, by your mercy, your reign of peace becomes a reality in our hearts and on this earth, we pray for your safety and protection for those serving in the armed forces of this land, especially those on our prayer list. Bring them safely home when their work is done. **May we abide in peace as we abide in you.**

We give thanks for the recovery of Pinkie Mayfield and for her restored strength, and for Helmut Linne von Berg's successful surgery. Grant to all of those on our prayer list and especially to Bobby Norman, son of Robin Monroe, Tom Kramer, Barbara Wisdom, Herbert Wilkerson, John Hess, Brad Volland and Joy Newlin your sustaining and healing mercies, that their various afflictions may be turned into health, and our sorrows into joy. **May we abide in prayer and compassion as we abide in you.**

May those who have died, especially Dot Wright, come to the place that you have prepared for them in your heavenly country, and go from

strength to strength in their resurrection lives. **May we abide in faith, hope, and love as we abide in you.**

The rhythm of life is yours, O God, the changing of the seasons, the busyness of the day and the night's stillness, youth's energy and age's measured pace. For daylight followed by hours of darkness, for the time of letting go, for taking off the clothes of the day, for the time of lying down and being covered by night's intimacy, for the overlapping of the seen and the unseen, heaven and earth, flesh and angels, body and spirit, rest and dying and new life, all part of your rhythm, thanks be to you. **Amen**

**Confession of Sin** **BCP 360**

**Absolution** **BCP 360**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings** **BCP 830 #51/431**

**Offertory** **In Christ there is no East or West** **Choir**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Eucharistic Prayer C** **BCP 369**

**Sanctus** **S 125**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

**Distribution of the Sacraments**

**Communion Hymn** **Come, risen Lord** **H 305**

**Post-Communion Prayer** **BCP 365**

### **The Blessing**

May God the gardener tend you,

May Jesus the vine sustain you,

And may the life giving energy of the Holy Spirit flow through you,

now and forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** **We know that Christ is raised** **H 296**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

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**Resources:**

Today's collect: Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Prayers of the People: Opening and closing collects are by John Philip Newell, from Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter, and The Book of Common Prayer.



## Announcements

**Welcome to St Peter's.** May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

**The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church.** Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Happy Birthday - Barbara Segar (April 28), Kelly Paterino (April 28), Holly Davis (April 30), Stanley Fields (May 1), Hugh D'Aguiar (May 2) Karen Woodruff (May 4)**

**April 28, Worship, On YouTube at 11am or afterward.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

**Bible Study, Wed. May 1, 10am-12pm. Parish House, reading the lectionary for the Sixth Sunday in Easter.**

[https://lectionarypage.net/YearB\\_RCL/Easter/BEaster6\\_RCL.html](https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster6_RCL.html)

**Confirmation Class Thursday, May 2. 7:30-8:15PM on Zoom**

<https://bit.ly/42YG3i8> Meeting ID: 893 1712 7905 Passcode: 505603

**The National Day of Prayer, Thurs, May 2, is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.** It was created in 1952 by Congress and signed into law by President Truman. **You can watch the national broadcast 8 p.m. online.**

[https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/events/2024\\_broadcast](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/events/2024_broadcast)

**"Foundations of an African-American Community", in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Old Port Royal School, will be held Saturday, May 5, 11am, 506 Main Street. Cleo Coleman's is speaking on "The School", one of several speeches.**

**Easter Tide – "50 Days celebrating the season" from Forward Movement <https://50days.org/>.** Sign up for daily email meditations

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**

**Website: [www.news.churchsp.org](http://www.news.churchsp.org) Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**

**The Vestry**

**Larry Saylor (2025), Elizabeth Heimbach, (2025), Linda Upshaw (2026),  
Andrea Pogue (2027), Johnny Davis (2027)**

**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar  
Senior Warden, Johnny Davis**

**Junior Warden, Larry Saylor**

**Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist**

**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector**

**The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus**

**(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, [stpetersrev@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersrev@gmail.com)**

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

**Prayer List**

**Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Tom Kramer, The Pannells, Terri Harrison, Stanley and Cindy Fields, Marion Mahoney, The Wisdoms, The Pogues, Laura Carey, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara Segar, The Faibisys, The Felicianos, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Jim Heimbach**

**Joy Newlin, Karen Lawhorn, Michelle Hinton (Hicks friend), Harald Jenewein, Lola Delbridge, Lois Christie, Ralph and Diane Powell, Enid and Albert Barnett (Pogue relatives), Kristina Childs, Cy and The Rev Deacon Linda Murphy (Saylor friends), Beryl Harrison, Larry Saylor's family, Jesse Clarke's family, Daryl Potter (Hughes friend), Joanne and Herbert Wilkerson, Jimmy and Nancy Davis, Julie Davis, (family of Johnny Davis), Dale Brittle, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sister-in-law), Lisa Herbert, John Ryan Kirwin (Jean Devitt's son), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Roberta Rutledge, (Pogue friend), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, Nathaniel Schnakenberg, (Fisher family), Wayne Cohen (Pogue family), Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth and Morris Wallace, Orville Watson, Tiffany Feliciano and family, The Glasgow Family (Feliciano family and friends), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's Coleman's daughter and son), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ Anderson's grandson), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat, Joan Pemberton (Brad's family), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)**

**Passed into eternal life: Dot Wright**

**Serving in the Armed Forces**

PJ Koons

Scott Estes

Cliff Lance

Steven Lee

Reg Merkl

Grace Grimaldi

Alexis Rye

Michael Hobbs

Alex Long V