

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 3, 2026 10 AM**

**PRELUDE**

**Recorders:** *On earth has dawned this day of days* H 201

C. Piutti

**Organ:** Prelude on: *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing* H 182

Q. Thomas

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing*

H 182

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

3. Not throned above, remotely high,  
untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
but daily, in the midst of life,  
our Savior with the Father reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive! His Spirit burns  
through this and every future age,  
till all creation lives and learns  
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*The Celebrant may say*

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.***

**SONG OF PRAISE****S280***all standing*

Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to his people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
 receive our prayer.  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

**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****FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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**

- 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.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

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.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN** *By all your saints still striving*

H 232

1 From all Thy saints in warfare,  
For all Thy saints at rest,  
To Thee, O blessed Jesus,  
All praises be addressed.  
Thou, Lord, didst win the battle  
That they might conquerors be;  
Their crowns of living glory  
Are lit with rays from Thee.

2 All praise, O Lord, for Stephen  
Who, martyred saw you stand  
To help in time of torment,  
To plead at God’s right hand.  
Like you, our suffering Savior,  
His enemies he blessed,  
With “Lord, receive my spirit,”  
His faith, in death, confessed.

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*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.***

**SEQUENCE HYMN** *By all your saints still striving*

H 232

3 Then praise we God the Father,  
And praise we God the Son,  
And God the Holy Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One.  
Till all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne,  
And honor, power, and glory  
Ascribe to God alone.

**THE SERMON**

## THE CREED

*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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and our Bishop Sally French, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For Middletown, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering especially David Louro, Pat Robertson, Nancy Coffin, Michelle O'Mahony Barr, Laura Tozio-Ross, Dean Kolojeski, Marianne Robbins, Br. Richard Biernacki, Lisa Sassone, Karen Peck, Ashley Wilson, Lou and Scott Friedersdorff, Joann Hartswell and all those listed in the prayers of the people, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed especially Bill Bryant and William Moitz, III, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

***To thee, O Lord our God.***

*Silence*

*The Priest says*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

***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.***

*The Priest says*

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**

*The Peace is now exchanged*

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

## **Announcements:**

### **Birthdays**

Lauren Badal 05/03, Susan Chilvers 05/04 Lou Friedersdorff 05/05, Tom Fisher 05/06,  
Kristin Sparaco 05/07, Lochlan Pullen 05/08

### **Anniversary**

Nicholas & Jodean Casci 05/07

# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Celebrant says*

Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *O give thanks unto the Lord*

J. Corfe

*O give thanks unto the Lord, the Lord is good;  
For his steadfast love endures forever more.*

## THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*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 him thanks and praise.***

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**S130**

***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.***

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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;***

*The Celebrant continues*

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 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.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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, or ever and ever. Amen.***

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and says*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

### **FRACTION ANTHEM**

**S154**

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

***Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.***

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

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

### **INVITATION**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*The Celebrant says,*

Let us say together on behalf of our friends online:

***O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world who have gathered to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.***

***Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.***

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*If you are unsure as to whether or not you are permitted to receive communion, please know that you are! All are always welcome at God's table!*

**COMMUNION HYMN** *Come, my way, my truth, my life*

H 487

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

**COMMUNION MUSIC** *Praise the Lord through every nation* H 484 R. Bonighton**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER***After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

***Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**BLESSING***The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** *Praise the Lord through every nation*

H 484

1 Praise the Lord through every nation;  
 his holy arm hath wrought salvation;  
 exalt him on his Father's throne.  
 Praise your King, ye Christian legions,  
 who now prepares in heavenly regions  
 unfailing mansions for his own:  
 with voice and minstrelsy  
 extol his majesty: Alleluia!  
 His praise shall sound all nature round,  
 and hymns on every tongue abound.

2 Jesus, Lord, our Captain glorious,  
 o'er sin, and death, and hell victorious,  
 wisdom and might to thee belong:  
 we confess, proclaim, adore thee;  
 we bow the knee, we fall before thee;  
 thy love henceforth shall be our song.  
 The cross meanwhile we bear,  
 the crown ere-long to wear: Alleluia!  
 Thy reign extend world without end;  
 let praise from all to thee ascend.

**DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

*People* ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!***

**POSTLUDE** : *Concerto no.7 in F 1<sup>st</sup> movement (BWV 978)* A. Vivaldi arr. J.S. Bach

**Those for Whom We Pray**

David Louro, Pat Robertson, Nancy Coffin, Dennis and Samantha, Heather Terrace-Borgersen, Laura Tozio-Ross, Stanley Iyczek, Jay, Cindy Roberti, Ted Owen, Cara Scarpati, Br. Richard Biernacki, Lisa Sassone, Thomas Wilson, Jim Cross, Joyce Caldon, Karen Peck, Mary Musser, Warren S., Lynn F., Ericka M., Chris, Marianne Robbins, Karen Shaughnessy, Debbie, Morgan, Nicholas C., Eddie Edabach, Millie, Alex and Carly Kovalevich, Kay Lynn Jantz, Pat Murphy, Jack, Ashley Wilson, Craig, David, Lou and Scott Friedersdorff, Sandra Noecker, Judith Brown, Joann Hartswell, Ronnie Warren, Michael S., Katie, Naomi, Preston, Rafi, Shanda, Steve Kruft, Chris, William Willis, Denise, Jane Strong, Naomi, Edward Liska, John, Henry Campbell, Lisa Campbell, Barbara Hutchinson, Annabelle Suarez, Jackie Butler, Allison Geist, Auston Dimitry, Russel Poles, Maryellen S., Martin Spindell, Theresa Juskiewicz, Sydney D., Dylan D, Carmen Holmstrom, Steve Brody, Fabiola Resto, Ingrid Perilloux, Asiyat Aral, Lilly, Sawyer Hines, Darleen Colgan, Sami, Ellen, Elena, Michael A., Emily Straniero

**SERVING OUR WORSHIP****Birthdays**

Lauren Badal 05/03, Susan Chilvers 05/04 Lou Friedersdorff 05/05, Tom Fisher 05/06, Kristin Sparaco 05/07, Lochlan Pullen 05/08

**Anniversary**

Nicholas & Jodean Casci 05/07

**In Memoriam**

Bill Bryant and William Moitz, III

**Celebrant and Preacher**

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton

**Music Director**

John Balme

**Altar Guild**

Melinda Rudnicki, Linda Barth, Susan Hoffmann

**Lectors**

George Speidel, Peggy Noecker, Joyce Wright

**Ushers**

Walter Drake, Laurie Schlachter, Steve Grieshaber, William Drake and Dave Murphy

**Altar Servers**

Linda Barth, George Speidel, Sydney Sparaco and Dylan Sparaco