



Sunday May 2, 2021
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude

Choral No. 2 in b minor (Part 1) - César Franck

Welcome

The Word of God

Gathering Hymn

Hymn 704 vs. 1, 4- *O thou who camest from above*

Choristers singing hymns this morning - Claudia Blanchette, Eric Boberg, Judy Jones and George Wright

1 O thou who cam - est from a - bove the fire ce -
 2 There let it for thy glo - ry burn with ev - er -
 3 Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire to work, and
 * 4 Still let me prove thy per - fect will, my acts of

les - tial to im - part, kin - dle a flame of
 bright, un - dy - ing blaze, and trem - bling to its
 speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the
 faith and love re - peat, till death thy end - less

sa - cred love up - on the al - tar of my heart.
 source re - turn in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise.
 ho - ly fire and still stir up the gift in me.
 mer - cies seal, and make the sac - ri - fice com - plete.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People 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.*

Song of Praise

**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 8:26-40

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 herentire 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **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.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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.**

Sequence Hymn

Hymn 529 v. 1, 3, 4 - *In Christ there is no East or West*

Choristers singing hymns this morning - Claudia Blanchette, Eric Boberg, Judy Jones and George Wright

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

McKEE

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In
 2. In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where Their
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples in the faith, What -
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In

1. him no south or north; But one great fam - 'ly
 2. high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
 3. e'er your race may be! Who serve each oth - er
 4. him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are

1. bound by love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 2. gold - en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 3. in Christ's love Are sure - ly kin to me.
 4. one in him, Through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: CM; Galatians 3:28; John Oxenham, 1852–1941. Music: Spiritual; adapted by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949.

Gospel: John 15:1-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[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. 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. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

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, Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
 Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth,
 live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.
Silence
 Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.
 Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;
 that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Silence
 Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Silence

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Anthem

Piu Lento (Prélude et Fugue sur le d'Alain, Opus 7 - Maurice Duruflé

You may give online at <https://stjohnsbangor.org/online-giving/> or by texting "StJohnsBangor Donation" to 73256. Standard text message rates apply. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and mailed to 234 French St., Bangor ME 04401. Thank you for your continued support.

The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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:

**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.

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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,

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

By not partaking of the elements at this time, we express our longing for God's presence and our longing to gather once again in person as the body of Christ. None of us partake at this time, including those present in the church, as an expression of our unity as a congregation.

At the same time, we pray that we might recognize God's presence with us in our longing.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Beloved, a spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray, expressing desire to receive Holy Communion in this moment, but in which circumstances impede us from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Since we now are apart, let us pray:

Gracious Christ, you invite us to your feast, setting before us your heart's bread, and your life's wine. We yearn with all our souls to feast with you at the Altar, to taste and see the Lord's goodness today. Since we cannot now find

union at the table, grant your presence spiritually. We offer you our hearts, lives and souls, that we may become eternally one. Amen.

Time for Reflection - Communion Anthem

Alleluia No. 1 - Donald Fishel

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Choral No. 2 in b minor (Part 2) - César Franck

In Christ There is no East or West - McKee

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Alleluia No 1 - Donald Fishel

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Parish Prayer List

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed – Lee S., Sparrow, Jack, Phil, Pat T., Dorothy, Ella D., Myrick C., Shawn, John M., Bonnie A., Owen D., Sophia, and Jim. *Continued prayers for* – Eileen, Darab L., Ralph R., David B., Leslie J., Anita, Marthe, Eddie, Sarah B., Deej P., Bryson, Evan, Ann P., Lev, Ross, Jaydon, Jesse, the Island Nursing Home Community, and Oma O.

For our Homebound Members – Evelyn L., Joline F., Kathleen D., Mary, Charles, Robert B., Christa F., Lilly P., Earlene B., Cathy K., Betty C. and Eileen H.

For Everyone affected by the COVID19 virus: for all who are sick or dying, all who mourn; for all who are isolated, anxious, or scared; for those most vulnerable in our institutions and on our streets, for those sacrificing and volunteering to provide safe beds and nutritious meals; for students, families, teachers, and school administrators; for all who are working in essential services, especially our doctors and nurses and all in our health care systems, for all working in our grocery stores and supply chains, and for those who clean and sterilize; for all who willingly sacrifice their own needs and desires for sake of others' health and well being.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in war-torn places, especially those in those in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Iraq. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For all those affected by gun violence. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced, especially for children.

For our Nation: for all who suffer from injustice; for eyes to see injustice and for the will to work for fairness for all of God's people; for all who protest and for those who are charged to maintain our safety; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community. Joseph Biden Jr., President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills, Governor; and Daniel Tremble, Mayor - for those who serve in the courts of this land - that they govern with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., Joshua M., Aaron B., and Timothy W.

For the Departed - Barbara Brown, Laurel Libbey, John S. Hedger+ and for all who have died from the Coronavirus around the world.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including Mary-Frances B., Gail C., Sarah F., Sarah P., Ralph R., Josh S., Gracie S., and Jane Z.

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact one of the clergy.

Please use this list for your own personal prayers too.

Announcements, Opportunities & Invitations

Please join us for the Big Red Truck Event - 2nd Saturday Spring Donation Drive on Saturday May 8th from 9-11am to benefit the Bangor Homeless Shelter. You may drop off your donations at St. John's Episcopal Church, 225 French Street, Bangor (truck will be parked in front of church for drive-up to drop off items). Donations needed include: canned goods and personal hygiene items.

Help is needed for Second Saturday on May 8th! With our current restrictions (social distancing and John bapt using our kitchen), what we need help with most is food preparation. We need: Casseroles or stews to feed approximately 20-30 people-- we usually have several different ones, so if you can prepare one with 8-10 servings that would be wonderful. Either hot food delivered around 11:15am, or food in a crockpot or microwavable container will work. Past menu items have included american chop suey, turkey stew, mac and cheese. A veggie/ salad like coleslaw (30 small servings); dessert that is easy to serve (cookies or brownies) in ziplock bags (you can package, or we can! (30 servings); rolls (30 servings); If you can help with any of these items this month, please email Anne-Marie at youth@stjohnsbangor.org Thanks!

We invite you to join us on May 16th at 8:00am as we hold an in-person Eucharist service, which we'll continue to do a few times a month (after May 16th, the next one will be on June 6th). We will offer the same liturgy as 10 am (Rite II) but without music or singing. (Music still needs to be pre-recorded for now because of pandemic restrictions and technological limitations, so music will only be included in the live-streamed services at 10.) We will observe capacity limits and other common precautions like masks, distancing, hand sanitizer, and adaptations to communion distribution. Socializing before and after the service will happen outdoors.

You are invited to join the **women's book group, gathering next on May 18 we will focus on *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, 2009.** If you are interested in any or all

meetings, please contact Jane Zenk at jzenkjzenk@gmail.com or Marisue Pickering at marisue.pickering@maine.edu.

At the Salvation Army, our group is signed up to cook and serve on the 4th Tuesday of each month. We'll be cooking and placing the food into to-go boxes which the Salvation Army staff will then serve from the truck. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are required, so please bring one. We look forward to seeing you again at the **Salvation Army on May 25th from 9 am - 12:30 pm!**

The weather may still be chilly, but summer is coming fast. **For information on summer camps at Camp Bishopswood go to www.bishopswood.org.** A limited number of scholarships are available. Please contact Rev. Liberty for more information at transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org.

Where's Phoebe? Well, recently she was at church, checking in with our friends. Big Bird says it's kinda lonely, but they are doing ok. But Phoebe will be ready to ZOOM at the usual Tea Time this Sunday. Don't miss out! **Grab your tea cup and join Phoebe and friends on Sunday at 1700h (5pm).** We might be physically distant, but we are socially connected. Tea Time concludes by 1800 (6pm), but participants are welcome to dip in for shorter periods. Questions? Contact Ann at deacon@stjohnsbangor.org

