Trinity Buckingham Church

Sharing God's love and serving God's people with Christ in our hearts and God's work through our hands



The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 10 am

Trinity Episcopal Church PO Box 387, 2631 Durham Road Buckingham, PA 18912 Phone: 215-794-7921 Office@trinitybuckingham.org

Welcome to Trinity Church!

Welcome to this gathering place, friend and stranger, saint and sinner. Come, with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness. May our generous God and our compassionate Savior and the life-giving Spirit bless you this day.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are new to worship in the Episcopal Church, we hope that you will simply enjoy the movement of the service and focus on the message of the Gospel, and not worry too much about what to do or what not to do. In general, we stand to sing, sit to listen and stand or kneel to pray, but please be comfortable. Some people will cross themselves, bow or kneel at different times—this reflects a personal preference and you are encouraged to follow your own.

If you are seeking a church just for today, thank you for celebrating with us and may God be with you as you travel. If you are searching for a new church home and family, know that you are welcome. We wish to greet you today or on your next visit in whatever manner will suit you best. Please leave a visitor's card with the usher/greeter.

Face-to-face worship during a global health crisis continues to present some challenges. Your health and well-being are our highest priority. If you are not feeling well, we ask that you keep some distance from others and refrain from taking the common Cup.

Please help us care for one another by taking your bulletin and any trash with you when you go.

Children are always very welcome at worship services. Please pick up a "Sunday Paper" from the ushers and some crayons. Puzzles and quiet toys are available in a basket in the rear of the church. The nursery is not staffed, but you are welcome to visit it with your child. The audio from the sanctuary is transmitted to the nursery.

Sunday School takes place during the first part of the 10 am service from September to early June.

Leading Worship Today

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Mary McCullough

Lay Associate for Liturgy, Music and Spirituality: Martha Dudich

Diocesan Intern: Jim Massey

Greeter/Usher: Natalie Welker-Marx **Chalice:** Morley Ewing & Jim Massey

Lay Reader: Diana Martinez Psalmist & Intercessor: Jeff Kroberger

Acolyte: Sue Snyder

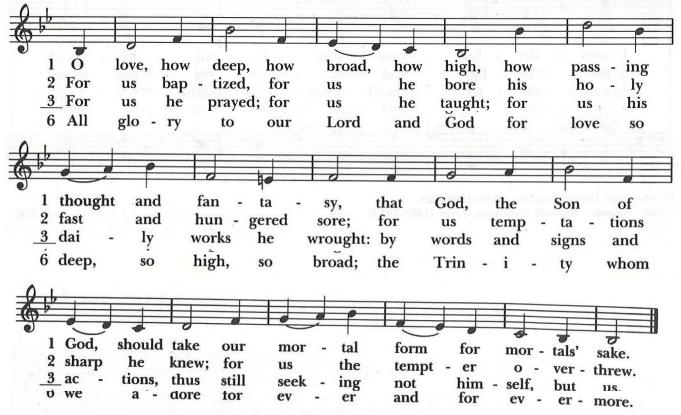
Altar Guild: Meg Perry & Joanne Welker **A/V:** Jill Unger

Open/Close: Janet Zimmerman/Sue Snyder

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Gathering Hymn: O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High



Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt.

Music: Deus tuorum militum, from Antiphoner, 1753; adapt. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.

LM

Salutation: *One:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: 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 holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria:



etting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Blessing and Sending of the Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hallelu-hallelu-halleluia! Praise ye the Lord x2
Praise ye the Lord. Halleluia! x 4
PRAISE YE THE LORD!

Collect of the Day

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: 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.**

Please be seated for the Lessons

Throughout the Sundays of Eastertide, passages from the book of Acts proclaim the meaning of the resurrection. Today's story shows the Gospel spreading beyond the bounds of Jerusalem and Judaism as Philip, who is not one of the 12, preaches good news in "pagan" Samaria and baptizes a eunuch, whose physical imperfection barred him from worship in the temple.

First Lesson Acts 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 24-30

- 24. My praise is of you in the great assembly; *
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.
- 25. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek you shall praise you: * "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.
- 27. For yours is the royal power, O God; * you rule over the nations.
- 28. To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before you.
- 29. My soul shall live for you; my descendants shall serve you; *
- 30. 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.

Written anonymously around the year 100 c.e., the First letter of John insists that love is to be the character of the community that gathers in Jesus name. The love shared within the community is the health of the branches that proceed from Christ the Vine. To "abide" is to "live within"; the baptized live within and share the love of the Risen Christ

Second Lesson 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they are to have with him. He uses the image of the vineyard—the Old Testament symbol of the people Israel, as an image of believers untied together in Christ. Those who abide in his word and love will bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

Gospel Anthem



Gospel Lesson

John 15: 1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Nicene 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, 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 for Eastertide

Let us rejoice and be glad in this season of Christ's resurrection.

Loving God, we praise you for the gift of the global church and for all the newly baptized around the world. Inspirit the ministry of all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our presiding bishop, Daniel our bishop, Nancy, our rector and Mary, our sabbatical supply priest. Uphold Jim and all who are preparing for ordination. Send the Spirit of the resurrection into every heart, for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

We praise you for the wondrous earth that you continuously create and for the myriad plants and animals that show forth your glory. Show us how to care for your creation, for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

We praise you for the times of peace and freedom that you have granted to us. And we pray for everyone who suffers from gun violence, from prejudice and injustice, from oppression and poverty. Bring an end to wars and tyrannical rule throughout the world, for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

We praise you for the food that you provide and for the promise of an everlasting feast for all peoples. Show us how to meet the needs of the hungry in our world, for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

We praise you for those who dedicate themselves to caring for others in body, mind, and soul. And we pray for those who are ill and those we lift up to you now, aloud or in our hearts....Restore health throughout the world, for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

We praise you for the presence of the risen Christ among us and for the witness of all who have died in the faith, especially those in whose memory the altar flowers are given this morning, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts...for Christ is risen:

People: Christ is risen indeed.

In thanksgiving for the new life of the resurrection, we raise these prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *People:* **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.

The Offering of our Common Life



At God's table, there is food for all who are hungry. If you are seeking God and a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not baptized, and would like to learn more about what this could mean for you please speak to our rector, Nancy. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available, please ask the server if you desire either. You may sip from the chalice, or dip your bread using careful hands. If you prefer to receive only the bread, simply bypass the chalice and return to your seat. If you prefer not to receive bread or wine at this time, place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing, or remain seated and honor Communion in your heart.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A

One: The Lord be with you.Many: And also with you.One: Lift up your hearts.

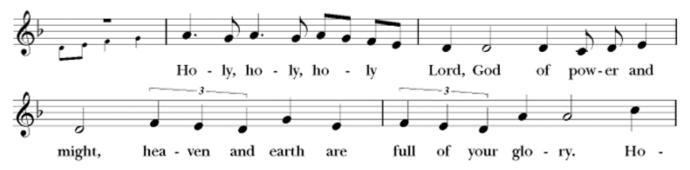
Many: We lift them to the Lord.

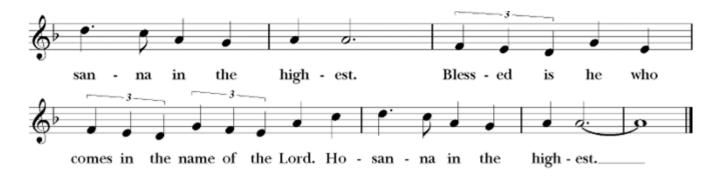
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 you 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:

Sanctus:





Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

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.

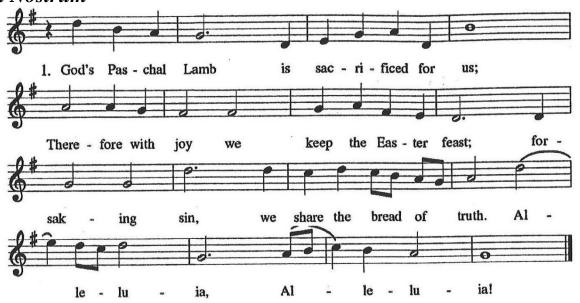
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Pascha Nostrum



The Communion of the People

Prayer following Communion

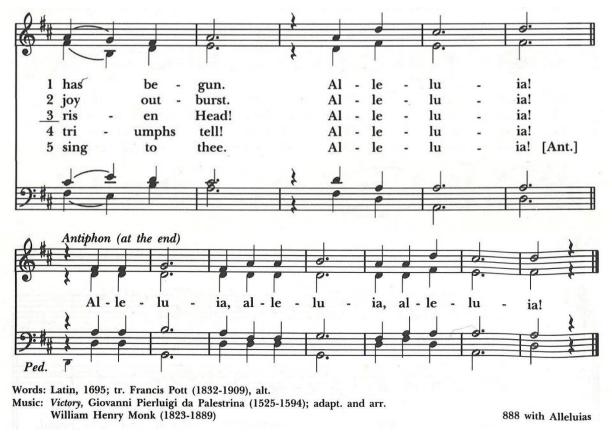
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and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

Blessing

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 upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: The Strife is O'er





Dismissal

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Many: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



The altar flowers this week are given in loving memory of Esther Heid Mooney by her daughter, Pat Cook.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Burton Dilliplane, Rector rector@trinitybuckingham.org

Sabbatical Supply Priest: The Rev. Mary McCullough

Diocesan Intern: Jim Massey

Joanne Welker, Rector's Warden Barry McCabe, Accounting Warden