



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, May 18, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
and Recognition of Graduates



DO YOU NOTICE THE LITURGICAL CHANGES OF EASTER?

Color: our lenten purple and holy week red are replaced by Easter white and gold, the colors of joy and resurrection.

Flowers: Easter is the only season in which St. Francis has flowers present at the altar each week. This highlights the importance and celebration not just of Easter Day, but of the entire 50-day Easter season.

Seating: In Lent, our seating was “choir style” or facing one another as we confess our sins and weakness to God and to one another. In Easter, we face forward toward the white, gold, flowers, and signs of “Alleluia!”

Candles: We add the tall Paschal Candle next to the altar in Easter. Paschal means “passover.” We believe Jesus “passed over” from death to life. The Paschal Candle is lit and prominently placed next to the altar to convey in sign and symbol a central theme of Easter—the unconquered light of Christ.

Liturgical language: In Lent, we do not use the word “Alleluia” which means “God be praised!” This word returns in Easter. Can you find the places where “Alleluia” is used in the liturgy? How does it change those pieces of the liturgy?

Readings from Sacred Story: Throughout the year, the first reading comes from Hebrew Scriptures. Only during Easter is the first reading from the New Testament, the Book of Acts. Acts shares the story of Jesus’ followers in the days, weeks and months after Jesus’ death and as the Church emerged and grew.

Confession: Where did it go? In Lent, we opened our liturgy with the Great Litany which includes the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy). For the seven Sundays of Easter, we omit the confession altogether. This liturgical change emphasizes God’s grace and love, and Christ’s definitive reconciling power for us all.

Cover Art: The cover art comes from the Vanderbilt Divinity “Art in the Christian Tradition” collection. The photo depicts the Global Refugee Mural in Maryland. It tells the story of three refugees who settled in Maryland. This mural speaks to The Book of Acts which we read throughout the Easter season. Acts tells the story of a small band of Jewish Jesus followers who become a multi-ethnic, global family. To learn more about this narrative in the Book of Acts, Google “Bible Project Book of Acts.”

“No mistakes in worship:” At St. Francis, we say, “there are no mistakes in worship.” Of course we make mistakes, but this is our way of saying that our focus is praise, thanks and dwelling with God as a community. If we sing off key, stand or sit at the wrong time, or make some other error, God is still praised. That is our priority! So if you make a mistake while you are with us, welcome to the club and God be praised!

We love pictures and videos, and we love sharing what we do on social media. When attending our events or services, you agree to our using pictures of you and any children in your charge on social media and elsewhere. If you prefer not to be included in photos or video, please inform a staff member or usher.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING

H 174

Stand and sing all.

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.



praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:



gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

OPENING ACCLAMATIONS

Lay Leader Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

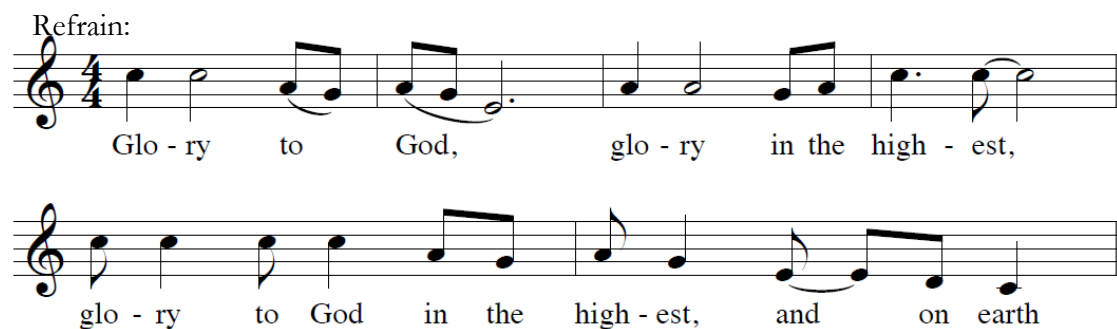
Lay Leader Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

GLORIA


At 8am, sing refrain two times. At 10:30am, sing all.

Refrain:



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est,
glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth

To Verses



peace to peo - ple of good will.

1. We praise you,
we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father. **Refrain**
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us. **Refrain**
3. 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. **To Amen below**



A - men, a - men, a men, a - men,



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lay Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lay Leader Most blessed Jesus, the only begotten Son of God's paternal womb: Give us courage to live your gospel without compromise, that your reign may be established on all the earth, both now and to the ages of ages.

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *Sit*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

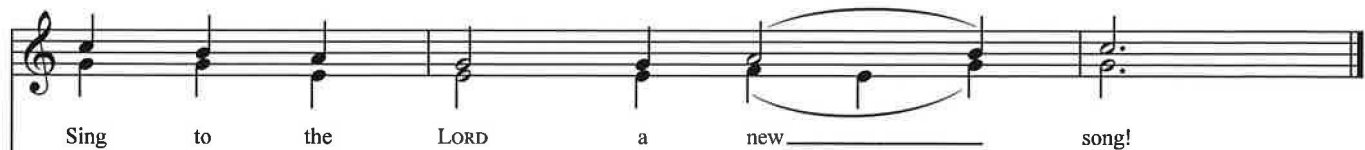
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 148

The congregation sings the antiphon one time through before the spoken verses.



Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars. **ANTIPHON**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.

He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **ANTIPHON**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds; **ANTIPHON**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens,
old and young together. **ANTIPHON**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord,
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! **ANTIPHON**

THE SECOND LESSON

Reader

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *Stand and sing.*

At 8am, sing refrain only twice. At 10:30am, before gospel, sing refrain, verse 1, and refrain again.



THE GOSPEL

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 13:31-35

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *Sing the refrain above one time through.*

SERMON *Sit*

THE REV. DR. GARNITA PLEAS

THE NICENE CREED *Stand*

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 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 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider God of hope, we bring our prayers to you as we sing.

The congregation sings the response one time after each prayer.



Presider Lord, hear the prayers of your family and fulfill our desires and petitions as may be best for us through your child Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

Please see our parish Prayer Lists, which can be found on the bulletin, for biddings and concerns. If you would like to make a prayer request, please complete our Prayer Request Form which can be accessed at StFrancisEureka.com or on paper at the back of the church.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Sit*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who contribute as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your contribution in the collection plate or use the QR code to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

We return with thanksgiving the gifts God has given us. This includes bread and wine of the earth and financial offerings from our labor. Representatives of the congregation bring these to the common Eucharistic table.

OFFERTORY 10:30am

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH



1. For the beau - ty of the earth,
3. Call cre - a - tion by her name:
5. In haunt - ing wind and chil - dren's cries we
6. All glo - ry and hon - or to our God: You



sing, O sing to - day. Join cre - a - tion's
"Won - drous Gift from God!" We are mere - ly
hear your plain - tive voice. Called from our com -
are the Breath of Life. As you move the



gran - deur in sing - ing end - less praise.
trav - el - ers on this ho - ly ground. As
pla - cen - cy, we must work for peace! When
un - i - verse, bless us in this place.



Here, where hands and hearts are o - pen,
stew - ards of the land and air,
faith - ful gath - er in your name, you
Moon and mouse and red - winged black - bird



love is our em - brace, and the beau - ty
gen - tly may we tread, and in our liv - ing
prom - ise an - swered prayer. So we raise our
shine your ra - diant gaze. We join the ad - o -



all a - round is God's ra - diant face.
show our care for crea - tures of the earth.
fer - vent plea for last - ing peace on earth.
ra - tion as we of - fer grate - ful praise.

At 10:30am , the following is sung as ushers present the offerings. Please stand.

H 380

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above you heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Stand*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say/sing:

Sing at 10:30:

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out 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:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

AMEN

Sing twice.



**Pronounced: Ay-men.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **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.**

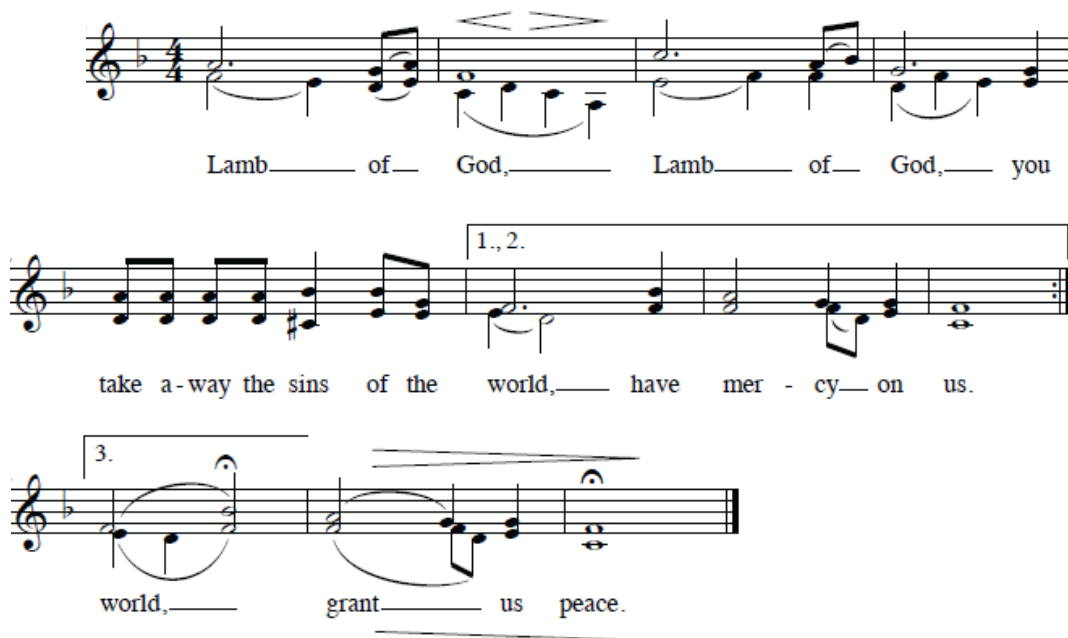
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

FRACTION ANTHEM 10:30am



Lamb — of — God, — Lamb — of — God, — you

take a-way the sins of the world, — have mer - cy — on us.

world, — grant — us peace.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

So come to this table you who have much faith or you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come. It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

People **Amen. As the bread and wine we now eat are transformed, may we be changed into the likeness of Christ; bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh, loving and caring for the world.**

Our bread is gluten-, dairy- and nut-friendly. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

Refrain: Life-giving Bread, as our hearts are transformed anew,
and Life-giving Wine, may we share in a life with you.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

People **Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and new alternatives, bring you new life,
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always.

People **Amen.**



1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;



loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion



led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.

DISMISSAL

Presider Share the love of the risen Christ with the world and go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **We will share the love of Christ with the world! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**