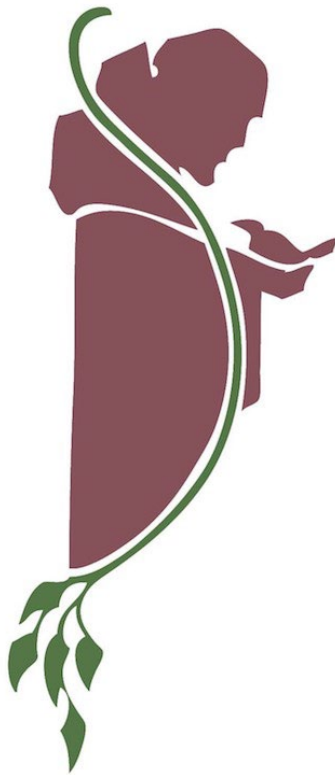


The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use supplemental hymn books called *Wonder, Love & Praise* and *Come Celebrate* which will be given to you with your bulletin. These will be listed as WLP or CC followed by the hymn number.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

Hail, thou once despised Jesus

Hymnal 495

EASTER ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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.

GLORIA: 8:00 a.m. *spoken*

BCP 356

10:00 a.m. *sung*

Hymnal S-280

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: *Acts 10:44-48*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, and all the ends of the
earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before
the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: *1 John 5:1-6*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: *John 15:9-17*

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his 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. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON:

The Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM IV

BCP 388

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.

...for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; for our own parish of St. Francis, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry; for the ministry of unCommon Ground; for the mission of Renewal Works ...for The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil; for the parish of St. Mark's, Leominster; for the mission of Episcopal Relief and Development;

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.

...for Joe, our President and Maura, our Governor;

...for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, Daniel Roy, David Lane, Riley Smith, Andy Kimball, James Cimochoowski;

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

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.

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Judith and Paul Morrissette; Laura and John Murphy; Joan Nack; Catherine Nash;

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving, either silently or aloud

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.

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, Jonathan Seale, Bill, Elizabeth Heath, Ann Murphy, John Dougherty, Ted Harris, Paul Stanovich, Adam Schmidt, Cam Canale, John, Richard, Betty Clark, Lauren;

...those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn; and those we name at this time, either silently or aloud;

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant adds a final collect.

THE PEACE

BCP 360

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

O Love that casts out fear

Hymnal 700

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

8:00 a.m. *All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***

10:00 a.m.

Tune: Hymnal 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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 God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

8:00 a.m. (spoken)

10:00 a.m. (sung)

Hymnal S-130

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 Francis, Clare, and 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.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

8:00 a.m. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:00 a.m. Agnus Dei **Hymnal S-164**

COMMUNION HYMN: 10:00 a.m. *Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing* **Hymnal 334**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 365

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.

EASTER BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN: 10:00 a.m. *As those of old their first fruits brought* **Hymnal 705**

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:

Altar Guild: Dave Lucas, Mike Reno, Carolyn Schmidt

Nursing Home: Tina Chen

8:00 a.m.

Reader/LEM: Rich Farrell

10:00 a.m.

Usher: Ted Kremer

Reader/LEM: Laura Caswell

Coffee Hour: The Jensen and The Holden Family

We welcome The Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson and thank him for being with us today.

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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