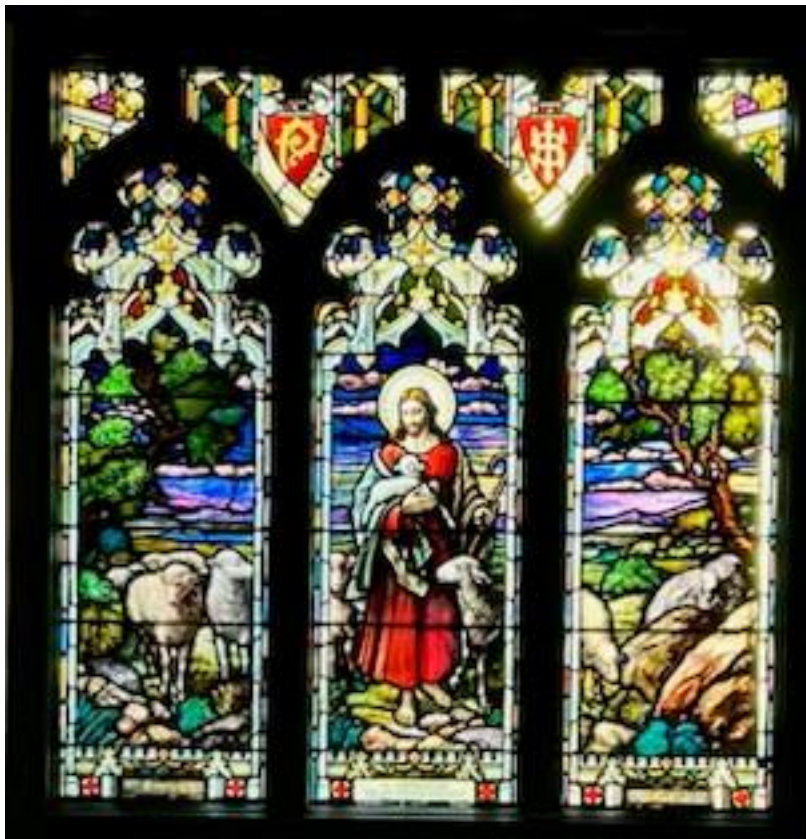


CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

A Member of The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024

10:00 AM Rite II

Join us on Facebook as we live stream this Eucharist:

www.facebook.com/cgsreading/live/

Wherever you are on your journey with God or toward God, you are welcome here!

Prelude Jesus, Name Above All Names *with O, How I Love Jesus*
Hearn/arr. Hayes

Welcome

Gathering Song God is Love Hymnal #379

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **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 Hymnal #S278

Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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.**

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: 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.

Sermon

The Rev. Sarah A. Conner

The 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:

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.

You may sit or kneel for the prayers

Prayers of the People

Form III BC

Leader: Let us joyfully offer our prayers to the Lord:

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Alan and Carol, our Bishops, Martha, our Regional Canon, Sarah, our Interim Priest, our Rector Search Committee, and for all the clergy and people.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give special thanks for those in our parish family who are celebrating birthdays this week: Elizabeth Dolban, Frank Kyle, Susan Hegarty, Mary Ines, Noah Tahmaseb, and for those celebrating anniversaries this week, Claude and Elaine Grosso. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give to the departed eternal rest. We remember Nancy & Henry Druid, Dorothy & Thomas Hildreth, Lillian & Abraham Pinkus, David Pinkus, in whose memory the altar flowers are given; and Gerry Chagnon, in whose memory the Sanctuary Lamp is lit.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

The Presider adds a concluding collect

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Invitation:

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Preparation of the Table I Am the Vine

Eugene Butler

Easter Doxology

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

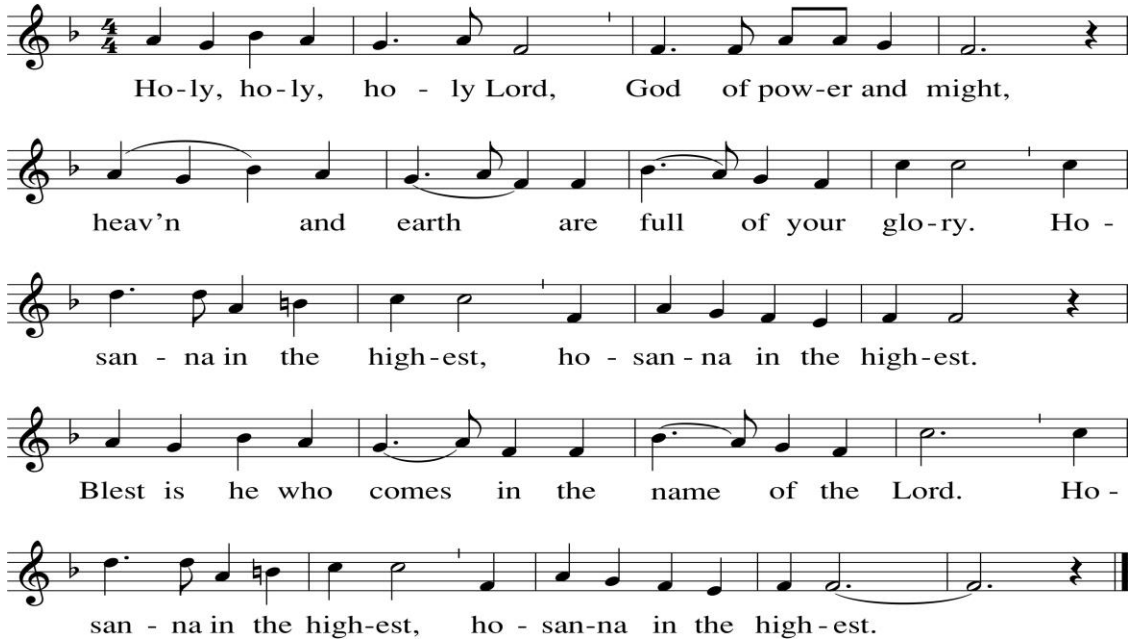
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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. 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:

Sanctus



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high-est.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est.

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,



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

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.



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

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please let the priest know if you need a gluten free wafer.

Communion Hymns:	Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed	Hymnal #323
	I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord	Hymnal #304

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray
Please stand

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.

The Blessing

Presider: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Recessional

In Christ There is No East or West

Hymnal #529

Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Rondeau from *Première Suite*

Jean-Joseph Mouret

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Funeral Planning: Today, following the service, Sarah will lead a brief session on funerals in the Episcopal Church, and funeral planning. We will gather in the Rector's office at 11:15. A planning form will be available; you may take it home and fill it out at your convenience, if you wish.

2024 Annual Spring Auction: Our theme this year is **"Take Me out to the Ballgame"** – Don't miss this fun filled evening of great fellowship, great food and fun activities! Sign up sheet is on our bulletin board. See our flyer at the back of this bulletin for additional information.

Auction Baseball raffle.

Purchase your lucky baseball for \$20 or 5 for \$100.

Maybe you will hit a Home Run.

First prize- \$750, 2nd prize- \$250, 3rd prize- Gift Basket.

Baseball's can be purchased during coffee hour on Sundays, or you can contact the office to receive you special lucky ball number.

Reading Food Bank: Drop off on Sunday or during office hours. There is a box in front of the side altar New Needs List: Laundry Detergent, Tissues, Pancake syrup, mayonnaise, solid white tuna in water, Market Basket Gift Cards.

Bread of Life: The next in person volunteer day will be Friday, May 3, at First Baptist Church, 493 Main St., Malden (no April volunteer day). Volunteers are welcome. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Sharon and Tony Lopes at 978-710-6927, or via email, lopesantonio622@gmail.com.

Bread of Life Sponsors for April: Barbara Carney and Peggy Cox.

The Bargain Box: The Bargain Box hours are every Friday, 10am-3pm, Saturdays, 10am-1pm. Donations can be dropped off on Wednesdays, from 9am-12pm, or during the store's open hours. **Donations are down!** Please help us by cleaning out your closets before we close for the month of July. We are not accepting winter clothes at time. For more information contact Martha at jacksnana1@verizon.net or 781-944-6964. **This month our designated charity is Reading Food Pantry.**

For Your Prayers This Week: Rebecca Bellistri, Jennifer Bryson, Kim Chabot, Jennifer Chapman, Ruth Clogston, Joe Field, Jack Giordani, Pete Jeffrey, Gene Kilpatrick, Paul Marean, Paul Marlin, Chick Meech, Rhonda & JB Miller, Bonnie Morin, Mark Mueller, Mary Muir, Joan Paradis, William Paradis, Kevin Parziale, Greg Powers, Sam Rosendale, Judy Royce, Antonio Santos, Liz Sorrentino, Terry Swanson, Bill Webb, Tyler Wishart.

Birthdays this Week: Elizabeth Dolban, Frank Kyle, Susan Hegarty, Mary Ines, Noah Tahmaseb

Anniversaries this week: Claude and Elaine Grosso

Book of Remembrance: Lucilla De Pinilla, Carl Spencer, Heney Kearney, Jr., John Swallow, Henry Druid, Norman Dobbins, George Meuse, Steve Butler, John Arthur Wooldridge, Richard Basteri.

Altar Flowers: In memory of Nancy & Henry Druid and Dorothy & Thomas Hildreth, given by their family, and Lillian & Abraham Pinkus, and David Pinkus, given by Marie and Joe Field.

Sanctuary Lamp: In memory of Gerry Chagnon, given by Gerri Bellavia.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: *Churches of the Concord River Deanery*
St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton, St. Michael's Church, Holliston, St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton, St. Luke's Church, Hudson, Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women.

Today's Lay Ministers in Liturgy: Lector: Earle Sinnatamby; Ushers: Tony Silva, John Parsons; Altar Guild: Sharon Lopes; Flower Delivery: Tony and Sharon Lopes; Lay Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Brigante

Medical Emergency: *If there is a medical emergency during worship, please notify one of our ushers. An AED is located in the hallway, and they have a phone available to dial 911*



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD 2024 ANNUAL AUCTION

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME
MAY 18, 2024

95 Woburn St., Reading, MA 01867

Potluck & Concession Stand 6-7PM – LIVE AUCTION 7-9PM

Activities: Wine Raffle – Winner takes all!
Cobalt Creations Boutique
Mock Baseball game

Raffle: Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Get your baseball and hit a home run!
\$20 per baseball or 6 baseballs for \$100!



1st Prize \$750, 2nd Prize \$250, 3rd Prize Gift Basket

How can you help?



Donate auction items or services.
Sign up to bring an appetizer,
Main course or dessert. Join us!

For additional information, contact the church office at 781-944-1572 or
Email at office@goodshepherdreading.org or our auction chair, Susan
Buckley at 617-968-4877 or susan.m.buckley@gmail.com

PARISH LEADERSHIP AND CONTACT INFORMATION



Interim Priest: Rev. Sarah A. Conner
Alice Johnson Hannon, Music Director
Jane Farrar, Pastoral Associate
Jan Kelly, Administrator

office@goodshepherdreading.org

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