



Holy Eucharist - Rite II The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 10:00 am

## Welcome to St. Matthew's! We are glad you are here.

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. If you're joining us from home, please stand, kneel, sing, and pray with us as you're able. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us.

#### Children are most welcome and are encouraged to participate in worship.

To the parents of children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Sit toward the front so your little ones can see and hear. Go ahead and quietly answer their questions. If you don't know the answer, the priest would love to talk to your little one. When you sing the hymns and join in the prayers, you teach little hearts how to be faithful; you are their best model. If you need to leave the service, that's okay. Don't be shy about coming back. It was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me."

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Matt's.

## + THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Prelude on an Old Folk Tune

The hymns can be found in the blue hymnals. Please stand as you are able.

# Processional Hymn 457

ST. JAMES

"Thou are the Way, to thee alone"

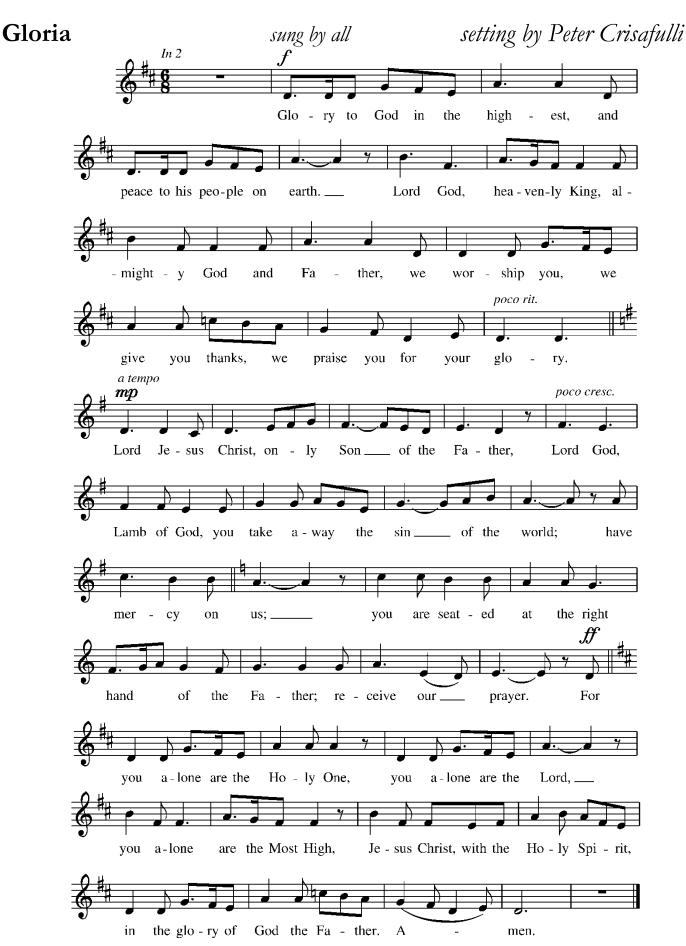
Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## The Collect for Purity

The Celebrant and People say together

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.



# 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 congregation may be seated.

# The First Reading

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.People Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 22:24-30

chant by Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901) sung by the choir

- <sup>24</sup> 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!"
- <sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- <sup>27</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD; \* he rules over the nations.
- <sup>28</sup> To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \* all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- <sup>29</sup> My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \* they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- <sup>30</sup> They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \* the saving deeds that he has done.

## The Second Reading

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Children in Pre-K - 7th Grade proceed to their classrooms at the beginning of the hymn.

# Sequence Hymn 353 vv. 1-2

WAREHAM

"Your love, O God, has called us here"

# The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

People 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward

#### 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.

# Prayers of the People

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor God of Love, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and

humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and

Sacraments.

*Intercessor* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations

of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or

trouble. We pray especially for Judy, Karen, Kristen, Vinny, Antonio, Thomas, Diana, Aaron, Kathy, Arlene, Jack, Joan, Liz, Jack, Maddie, Scott, Melinda, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We also remember those we now name either silently or aloud (the people are invited to offer their own

intercessions).

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

*Intercessor* We remember before you all those we love and see no longer,

especially Paul. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own intercessions either silently or aloud.

Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

Good and gracious God, we offer this prayer today in love that unites us to you and to one another. We pray that nourished by your word and by your Spirit, we may grow ever stronger in faith as we strive for the coming of your kingdom. We stand at the crossroads committed to the ongoing faith-centered struggle to dismantle racism, to create just and anti-racist relationships with our brothers and sisters, and within our church and institutions as we strive to build a society that dwells together in God's unconditional and universal love.

—Archdiocese of Chicago

#### Celebrant

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

Please stand as you are able.

#### The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

## + THE HOLY COMMUNION +

## The Offertory

Celebrant

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

Please read and pray on the words of the anthem as you listen to the choir sing.

Offertory Anthem

sung by the choir

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

I sat down under His shadow

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

- Song of Solomon 2:3b-4

## The Offering

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, please consider making a gift of thanksgiving to support the work of God at St. Matthew's. If you're with us in person, the Ushers will pass plates. If you've joined us online, you can use this QR code or visit www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering. You can designate it as a gift or as a part of your pledge. No gift is too small. All gifts honor the God who honors us with life, breath, love, and salvation. Be a part of God's mission with us today and in the future as we seek to love and serve our neighbors, to heal each other and the world, to share the joy and good news we've found in Jesus.



Please stand as you are able.

# **Doxology at the Presentation** *sung by all* 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.

# The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

#### The Celebrant proceeds

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

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

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



#### The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

#### The Celebrant continues

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 [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

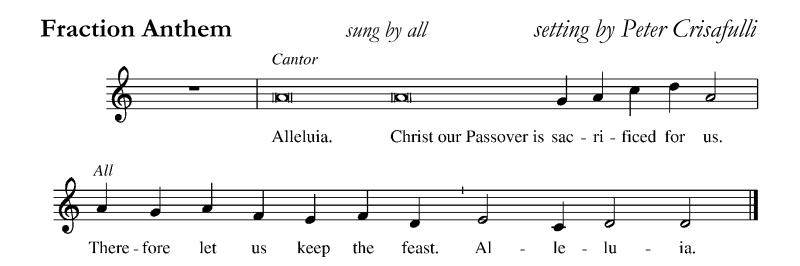
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *Celebrant and 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing. Please wait for the ushers and follow their instructions. When you reach the center of the space, please open your hands and lay them flat to receive the bread or cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. You may then choose to drink from the silver chalice to your left or intinct (dip the wafer in the wine) in the clay chalice to your right. If you do not wish to receive wine, simply pass the cup, and make your way back to your seat. We believe Jesus is fully present in both the bread and the wine, so if you receive the bread, you have participated fully in communion. Let the Priest know if you need a gluten free wafer by first extending your palms down. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an usher know.

Please read and pray on the words of the anthem as you listen to the choir sing.

#### **Communion Anthem**

sung by the choir

Anonymous (c. 1550)

I am the true vine

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch that beareth not fruit in me, he will take away. Every branch that beareth fruit will he purge, that it may bring forth more fruit.

—John 15:1

## Communion Hymn 424

EAST ACKLAM

"For the fruit of all creation"

If you are joining from home or have not received communion, you may offer this prayer to the Lord.

#### The Act of Reception

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)

The Celebrant and the People say together

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## The Postcommunion Prayer

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out

to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **Parish Announcements**

# The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

Beloved, life is short. And we do not have enough time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you to strengthen and guard you this day and always. **Amen.** 

# Recessional Hymn 657

Hyfrydol

"Love divine, all loves excelling"

#### The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Fanny Hensel (1805–47)

Postlude in G major

**Worship Leaders** 

CelebrantThe Rev. Marissa RohrbachPreacherThe Rev. Dr. Carter HeywardEucharistic MinistersAnne Newton, Beth BakerLectorsAmy Gubner, Paul Reis

Intercessor Anna-Kate Reis

Music Director Andrew Leslie Cooper

Choir St. Matthew's Church Choir Altar Guild Char Griffin, Joy Ruterman



Today's altar flowers are given in thanksgiving for the birthdays of the Perry family, by Chris Perry. Happy Birthday this week and next to Amanda, Alison, Endy and Sam.

<u>Prayer Requests</u> Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for <u>six weeks</u>. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list. You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People.

Today and through the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: Judy, Karen, Kristen, Vinny, Antonio, Thomas, Diana, Aaron, Kathy, Arlene, Jack, Joan, Liz, Jack, Maddie, Scott, Melinda, and Presiding Celebrant Michael Curry. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark's, New Canaan; Christ Church, New Haven; St. James', New Haven. Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy.

## Weekly Calendar - April 28 - May 5

Sunday, April 28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Church School 11:15am Coffee Hour

2:00pm Movie Screening: Philadelphia Eleven

Monday, April 29

7:00-9:30pm Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 30

11:00am Staff meeting

7:30pm Vestry meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 1

7:30-9:00pm Social Justice & Racial Healing meeting

Thursday, May 2

7:30-9:00pm St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 5 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Godly Play 11:15am Coffee Hour

Need to sign up for the e-news? It's easy – just go to <a href="www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter">www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter</a>.

Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group?

Go here: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/</a>

Need something else? Send Marissa a note or be in touch with another member of the staff.

# The Philadelphia Eleven

Sunday, April 28, 2024

2:00–3:30pm Documentary Screening 3:30–5:00pm Discussion with the Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward

Dr. Heyward will also preach at the 10:00am Holy Eucharist



## Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am



Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.

Staff

Rector The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, <u>marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</u>

Music Ministries & Organist Andrew Leslie Cooper, andrew@stmatthewswilton.org

Parish Administrator Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org

Director of WEPCO Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net

Bookkeeper Louann Miska, <u>louann.miska@gmail.com</u>

Media Technician Matthew Henshaw

Nursery Staff Lucia Sato

Sextons Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

Warden Pam Ely Clerk Jennifer DeAngelis Warden Anne Newton Asst. Treasurer Brian Angerame

Treasurer Rob Kyle

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold Amy Gubner Endy Perry

Beth Baker Vytas Kisielius John Pearson

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897 Phone: (203) 762-7400

www.stmatthewswilton.org

Like us on Facebook! <a href="www.facebook.com/stmattswilton">www.facebook.com/stmattswilton</a>
Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @stmattswilton