



# St. John's Episcopal Church

415 S. Lexington Street, Arlington, VA 22204  
The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024, 9 in the morning**

*Typically, Episcopalians stand to sing and for the proclamation of the Gospel; kneel for confession and prayer; and sit while listening to reading or preaching. You will see some indication for those postures in the bulletin. Your presence is more precious than your posture: please stand, sit, or kneel as you are able and prefer.*

**Welcome! We're glad you're here!**

*Page references are to the red Book of Common Prayer. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982, with service music indicated by 'S' at the front of the Hymnal; 'LEVAS' for hymns from red/black Lift Every Voice and Sing; and 'WLP' for hymns from green Wonder, Love, and Praise.*

**PRELUDE** *Capriccio*

Tarquinto Merulo

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**HYMN 304** *I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord*

Land of Rest

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.  
**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Please stand as you are able**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant and People*

**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 S 280

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
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 LESSONS

*Seated*

### First Lesson

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:24-30** *Deus, Deus meus*

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 Lesson

A Reading from the first Letter of 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 529** *In Christ There Is No East or West*

McKee

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

***Stand as able***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 15:1-8  
**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.**

**HOMILY**

**THE NICENE CREED**

*Celebrant and People*

***Stand as able***

**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.**

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God gives what is good. Let us pray that this goodness of God flow through us into all the world, saying: O God, giver of love, hear our prayer.

O God, your love is in motion. We praise the strength of your love. Where there is hunger, raise up your love. Where there is hurt and persecution, empower your love. Where there are false prophets, proclaim your love. Where there are lies, speak your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

Where nations are angry and plot harm against one another, bring your love. Where governments lie and deceive, bring your love. Where powers cripple and destroy what you have made, bring your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

Where the churches alienate one another, bring your love. Where our fears keep us from offering Christ to all the needy peoples, bring your love. When this assembly is marked by division and jealousy, bring your love. O, God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, increase our affection. Increase our compassion. Increase our joy. Show us those we do not see. [*Especially...*] Magnify our love. O God, giver of love, **hear our prayer.**

*[The Prayer List will be shared, and other concerns are welcome to be named silently or aloud.]*

*Celebrant*

O God, we thank you for the power of divine love and for the presence of your love in one another. Guide us all finally into that greatest love who is Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Christ, Who Is My Life*

Johann Walther

DOXOLOGY 380, V 3

**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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

*Standing, seated or kneeling*

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God 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 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 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 S 125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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 many 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.**

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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## HYMN S - 171 *Be Known to Us Lord Jesus*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Intinction and drinking from the common cup are both offered; the Bread and the Cup are distributed with these words*  
The Body (and Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

## COMMUNION MUSIC *The Lovely Name of Jesus*

Eric Lewis

Let us pray.

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

## CLOSING HYMN 296 *We Know That Christ is Raised*

Engelberg

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## POSTLUDE *Chorale Postlude*

Roger C. Wilson

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant, DMin, Rector  
Lynn Robinson, Minister of Music • Carol Dunlap, Guest Organist  
Susan Thompson, Usher • Lynn Robinson, Altar Guild  
Bill Pritchard, Reader • Lisa Pope, Prayers of the People  
Barbara Olivere, Lay Eucharistic Minister  
Bill Pritchard, Teller • Faye Pritchard, Fellowship  
Pete Olivere and Sandy Winger, Sound and Live-stream Coordinators

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Let's begin in silence; please refrain from talking once the Prelude begins.***

**Welcome:** We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and newcomers. All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Or you may come forward and receive a blessing.

**Please join us for coffee hour** downstairs after the service.

**The Flower Chart for 2024** is posted on the big bulletin board downstairs; we welcome and appreciate thank-offerings and memorial dedications.

**Little Free Food Pantry** St John's is moving closer to a final decision about whether to install a Little Free Food Pantry on-site, and is reaching out to the array of volunteers who stocked and oversaw the maintenance of the Pantry when it was at the Arlington Library, hoping to learn more about how they organized things and inviting them to join us in our own efforts. There is one more brain-storming session next **Wednesday, May 1** at 7 pm, then we'll aim to make a final decision at a community meeting on **Thursday, May 9**, again at 7 pm. If we do go forward, we will schedule a project launch celebration for Glencarlyn Day Saturday, June 1.

**The Book Club** has begun to read 'A Woman of NO Importance,' the story of an American socialite who became integral to the French Resistance during World War II. The Club will discuss this book Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 pm.

**Pentecost - Red All Around** May 19th, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit - clothe yourself in the colors of the Living Flame: red, orange, yellow and gold!

**AFAC Bulk Food Packing** On the second Friday evening of every other month, a group from St. John's works spends an hour at the Arlington Food Assistance Center bagging food. Contact Faye Pritchard on 703-931-2168 if you would like to help on May 10th.

**Bells and Balloons to Start the Parade** Glencarlyn Day Parade on June 1<sup>st</sup> starts at St John's, and we're adding balloon animals to last year's face-painting fun. The chance to ring the church bell was very popular last year, so we'll be offering that opportunity to kids of all ages, too! Please plan to join the fun as Glencarlyn celebrates sports of all types with a "Take Me Out to the Game" theme. Wear your favorite team's hat or jersey for the festivities or your St. John's tee shirt if you have one.

**Independence Day weekend** Looking ahead a bit, we will gather all together for the end of the long Independence Day weekend with a **single service for both congregations on July 7th**. We'll be at St Patrick's for Church at 11, followed by a Potluck lunch. If the weather is nice, we'll be outdoors, as there are picnic tables in the shade. (St Patrick's does not currently have an outdoor grill; if you have one going unused, we'd be glad to have it!

**The Path Ahead - 6 Week Course on Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life** Between the Fourth of July and Labor Day, let's gather for some adult formation. The course describes that "Participants grapple with ageism, identify changing spiritual needs, equip themselves with new prayer practices, and engage in discernment about God's continuing call." When shall we meet? Which dates work best? A second offering of this course will be set between All saints Day and Christmas for folks unable to join us this time. Please contact Julie+ with questions and to be part of the summer or fall group.

**School Supplies Drive** July and August will be gathering time for school supplies to benefit the elementary schools closest to each congregation (Carlin Springs and Westlawn). Lists of most-needed items and information about collection

sites will be forthcoming, but it's never too early to start watching for bargain prices on supplies! We'll bless the collected items on Sunday, August 18 in order to make delivery before the first day of school.

***Celebration of Life Planning*** Along with writing a will, establishing a trust, and taking care of medical directives, leaving a description of the scripture passages, music, and persons you hope will be involved in your memorial service is a true gift to your descendants. Families want to honor your spiritual practice and giving them a plan to follow often eases the way. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, September 25** - we'll gather for lunch and look at the Burial service, along with suggested readings, and work through questions about music, eulogies, etc. You'll have the chance to record your preferences, and a copy to put with your legacy file at home and one to stay at the church where it will be an easy reference for your family when needed. Exact time and location will be announced as we draw closer to the date.

***Live-Stream Worship*** Zoom access

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87353789589?pwd=OWlmaElNYnpDZ1N2ZVFSWDNlKoZDUT09>

and Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589. Password: 2020. Or, [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/join) Meeting ID: 873 5378 9589 and Password: 2020.

***Emergency Pastoral Care*** For pastoral emergencies please call or text the Reverend Julie D. Bryant at 703-336-2256. Her email address is [rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).

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## Honoring Families

Each year, I get asked about marking Mother's Day and Father's Day in church, so I'd like to respond before anyone gets too far in planning.

The family setting is often the first place one encounters the idea of God, and in which prayer and faith practices are taught and reinforced. Joys and sorrows within families are marked within the faith community; everything from baptisms to profession of faith at adulthood, marriage, death, joy, and sorrow.

The Episcopal Church has a broad understanding of "Family" that includes groups of all sorts: some linked across generations; some choosing to be family to each other without shared biology; families of adults; families that include children; families with fewer or larger numbers of parents; families for a season of life; families extending for multiple generations.

There are several strands in the history of Mother's Day observances. One might mark the day by returning to the church in which one was raised - the 'Mother church' - to refresh early tenets of faith. Women raising children without benefit of community were offered lessons on nutrition, child-rearing, or accessing resources. Women on opposing sides of the Civil War joined hands demanding reconciliation, a practice that is present in several places today. The practices of gift-giving swelled during the years following national recognition of Mother's Day, much to the chagrin of the people who asked for that recognition because the commercialization was counter to their original intention. Father's Day was inaugurated shortly after Mother's Day and has followed a similar path toward commercialism.

The Prayer Book does not include Collects for these holidays, though there are several prayers in circulation that speak to the tendering and mentoring done by many men and women, of their own children and of young people in their care. Some of those prayers include the acknowledgement of suffering that occurs within family systems and the pain of being ostracized within or without families of origin. We may use prayers of dedication and thanksgiving during the months of May and June, evoking gratitude for care given and received; I will select ones that do not presume the manner of tending and teaching as set by gender, or imply a narrow definition of family, precisely so that we can celebrate the many ways God invites us to find community with one another.

Rather than have small gifts for men or women who may be known as fathering or mothering children, I suggest that remembrances and thanksgivings for those who have been your guides and providers be made to the Arlington Thrive program for families in need. You may also consider a thank offering for the children who were placed in your care for a moment or a lifetime, so that other families may have what they need to provide for young people. Information on Arlington Thrive program offerings is on the bulletin board, along with envelopes that may be placed in the offering plates. If you prefer you can donate directly on the Thrive website [arlingtonthrive.org](http://arlingtonthrive.org)

Thank you, Julie+