

CHRIST CHURCH of Exeter



Live
joyfully in faith

Connect
with God and one another

Serve
the local and global community

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Christ Church: If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the welcome cards in the pews and hand it to a member of the clergy after the service. Books and resources for children are located on the table near the side left door. Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Episcopal worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort. Sunday School and childcare are offered during the service today.

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Adagio from Symphony no. 2, opus 13

Charles-Marie Widor

Welcome

✠ *All stand, as they are able, as the clergy enter or the bell tolls.*

Processional Hymn 182

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Truro

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.

S278 - Glory to God

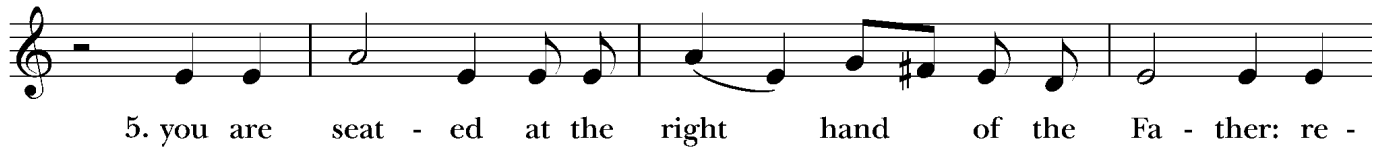
1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



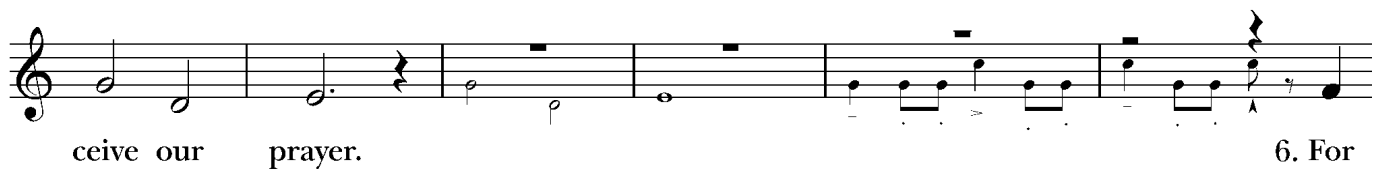
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



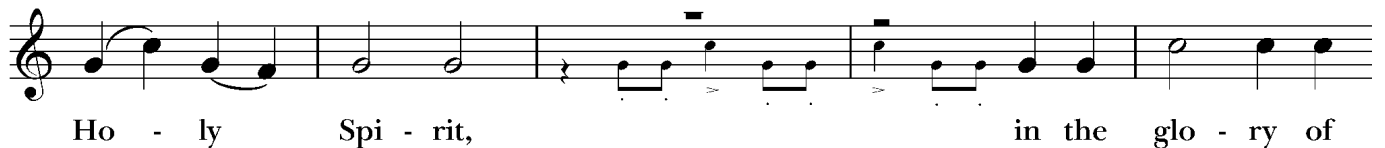
ceive our prayer. 6. For



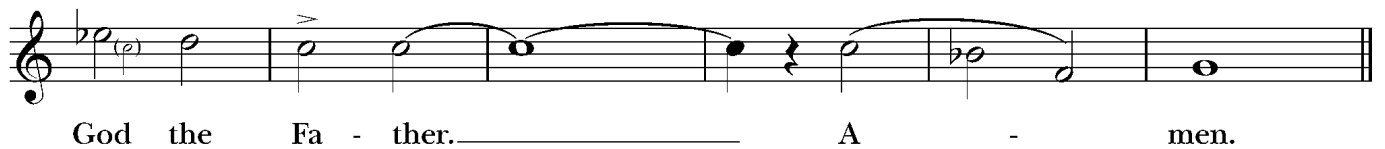
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

from the Hymnal 1982, setting: William Matthias. All rights reserved. One License.net A700244.

The 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.**

✠ *The people sit.*

The First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone

him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (*read responsively by verse*)

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me; ***
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, ***
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
- 15 **My times are in your hand; ***
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not

believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

✠ *The people stand as they are able.*

Sequence Hymn 711

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Seek Ye First

The Gospel

John 14:1-14

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I

been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ *The people sit.*

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld

✠ *A brief period of silence follows the sermon.*

The Nicene Creed *(said together)*

**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

Let us pray to the Lord.

For the Church throughout the world, that it may be a sign of new life to the weary and the lost, we pray to the Lord.

Silence

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, show us your light.

For all the leaders of the Church, that they may lead us in paths of peace and renewal. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop. We pray for our Bishop Rob, as we give thanks for his pastoral and prophetic ministry among us over these last fourteen years.

We continue to pray for our companion parish in Cárdenas Cuba.

Silence

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the nations of the world and those who lead them, that they may strive for justice. May we hope and pray for an end to the war with Iran, for diplomacy to lead to a lasting peace and freedom. We also pray for the safety of members of our Armed Forces.

Silence

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the peace of the world, that those who use violence and those who condone it may have a change of heart, mind, and soul,

Silence

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, show us your light.

For the sick and all who suffer, and for those who are in need of healing and rest.

We pray especially for Giti, Sue, and Steve.

Please name those either silently or aloud for those for whom you are praying:

Silence

We pray to the Lord.
Lord, show us your light.

For all believers in Christ, that they and we may know and share the joy of the empty cross and tomb.

Silence

We pray to the Lord.
Lord, show us your light.

For those who have died, that they may have light and peace and rest with all the saints, we pray to the Lord.

Silence

Presider Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ *The confession is omitted during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.*

The Peace

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

✠ *The people greet one another in the name of the Lord. The Peace may be expressed by shaking hands, bowing, "fist or elbow bumps", namaste greeting, putting hand over heart, waving, making the peace sign, and by offering a smile.*

Announcements

May Birthday Prayer:

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

✠ *The people stand for the hymn as they are able. The offering is brought forward.*

Offertory Hymn 707

Take My Life, and Let it Be

Hollingside

The Dedication of new Altar linens

Presider Let us pray: O glorious God, all your works proclaim your perfect beauty: Accept our offering of these altar linens, and grant that they may adorn this sanctuary and show forth your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP pg. 361

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.**

The Presider continues

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 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:

S-125 - Holy, holy, holy Lord

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

from the Hymnal 1982, a *Community Mass*; Richard Proulx. All rights reserved. One License.net A700244.

✠ *The people kneel or stand as they are able.*

The Presider continues

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:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

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 Presider then continues

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

People and Presider

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.

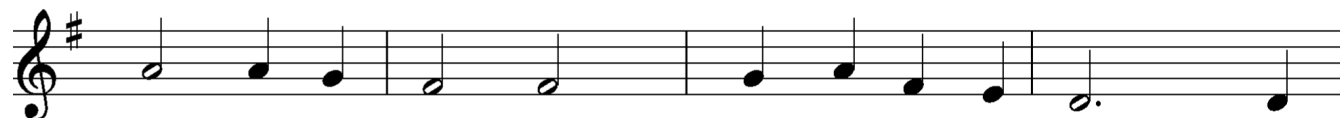
The Breaking of the Bread

⌘ *A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem - Christ Our Passover



1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us;



There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for -

Presider and 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

Recessional Hymn 525

The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Finale from Symphony no. 2, opus 13

Charles-Marie Widor

*The worship is over * The service begins*

Participating in Today's Liturgy:

Presider & Preacher: The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld

Assisting: The Rev. Mark Pendleton & The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Organist: Adam Peithmann

Lector at 10:00 a.m.: Athens Pullias

Intercessor at 10:00 a.m.: Dale Cavanaugh

Eucharistic Ministers at 10:00 a.m.: Nancy Fleming, Carol Allard

Welcome Team/Ushers:

Live Streaming Tech: Nick Castillo

Altar Guild: Barbara McGrath, Robin Sirois, Shannon Tosatti

Flower Delivery: Langdon

Hospitality: Mary Webber, Adrienne Spear

The non-pledge offering this Sunday will be dedicated to a special fund to honor the Bishop's tenure that will support children and youth ministry in the diocese. You can make out a check to Christ Church and put in the memo "Bishop Rob" and we will forward the funds. Thank you!

From the Rector: A Time for Pilgrimage: Building on my trip last year tracing the Celtic roots in Brittany, France. I will be making a pilgrimage to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) off the Northeastern coast of England from May 6 through May 10. Leslie and I will be guests of the Vicar, Canon Sarah Hills, who I've known for years through connections with Coventry Cathedral. Sarah visited Cuba with me back in 2018. I have been studying the famous Lindisfarne Gospels, painted and drawn by

hand by a monk, and will be open to share more at a forum in the fall. From Lindisfarne, we will go to Durham, where the relics of St. Cuthbert are interred and then on to York. I will be out of the office May 4 - 18. Mark+

We continue to meet for **9 am Wednesday Morning Prayer on Zoom during Eastertide**, beginning our day with prayerful reflection on God's word. Please reach out to Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh at 508-783-7798 for more information or to join.

Christ Church hosts a participant-run **Grief Support Group** on the second Monday of every month. The group meets from 2-3:30 p.m. in Room #4 of the Harris Building. The group welcomes those interested in exploring their grieving process in a supportive environment. Sessions are free. No registration is needed and participants are not expected to make an ongoing commitment to attend. For further information, contact Christ Church parishioner Becky Moore, 603-778-8312.

The Sunday morning book group that meets in the Dodd Room between the 8 am and 10 am services will be reading C.S. Lewis' *Till We Have Faces* in the Easter season. Our next gathering will be on Sunday, May 17th, at 8:50 am to share our thoughts and inspirations.

Zoom Morning Prayer Continues: A gathering of Christ Church Exeter members continues to meet for 9 am Wednesday Morning Prayer on Zoom through Eastertide, beginning our day with prayerful reflection on God's word. As we see signs of spring and look forward to longer, warmer days during the Season of Pentecost, we would like to know whether any of our friends from Christ Church care to join us on the same day and time or on a different day and time for Morning Prayer, or perhaps Evening Prayer and Compline, on Zoom or in the Christ Church Courtyard. If you are interested in learning more, being formed, and experiencing this ancient Christian practice, please reach out to Dale Pinkham Cavanaugh at 508-783-7798 or email her at dale.cavanaugh@yahoo.com.

The next **Labyrinth Guided Walk** will be Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 a.m. Participants should set aside about one hour, and bring a lawn chair, a journal, and something to write or draw with. All are welcome. Email ryerg03@gmail.com with any questions.

Rockingham Choral Society Concert at Christ Church Sunday May 3rd at 3:00PM.

Several members of our church choir will be participating in an upcoming **Rockingham Choral Society** concert as part of the national **Sing Democracy 250—All America Program**, a nationwide musical initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The concert features newly commissioned choral works celebrating the ideals of democracy, civic responsibility, and hope for our nation's future as well as traditional patriotic compositions. Tickets are available at www.rockinghamchoral.org. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and support our fellow members and the wider community through this meaningful musical event celebrating America.

To make a donation, you are welcome to use this QR code from your smartphone.



**This week at Christ Church
May 3-9**

Sunday	Vestry Lunch with the Bishop 12:00 Noon PSP Rehearsal 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Bible Study 11:00 a.m. PSP Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	PSP Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur 9 a.m. - 12 Noon, Weds 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

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VESTRY FOR 2026

Senior Warden

Patricia Gianotti

Junior Warden

Jennifer Murray

Treasurer

Richard Ingram

Clerk

Susan Dixon

Scott Anders

Elizabeth Bauman

Kate Mignone

Blake Carrico

Cindy Eaton

Matthew Rigatti

Juliette Gavin

Athens Pullias, Jr.

Laura Tetrault