



ST. CATHERINE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Ester
May 3, 2026

Welcome to St. Catherine's

We are glad that you have joined us for worship. If you are visiting with us, we invite you to fill out a visitor card, which can be found on the back of the chair in front of you. Completed cards may be given to a greeter or placed in the collection plate.

“BCP” before a page number refers to the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks. “H” before a page number refers to the blue hymnal. Both are in the pew.

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

Serving Today

The Rev'd Dillon Green, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Carol Dotson, *Vestry Person of the Day*

Scott Reimer, *LEM/ Crucifer*
Olivia Kennedy & Leila Phillips,
Torchbearers

Laura Chambless, *Lector*
Carol Dotson & Chris Stricklin,
Counter

Terri Stricklin, *Intercessor*
Chris Stricklin, *Greeter*
Wanda Wheeler, *Altar Guild*
Donald Bruce, *Technology*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 366 vv. 1-4

Holy God we praise thy Name

THE WORD OF GOD

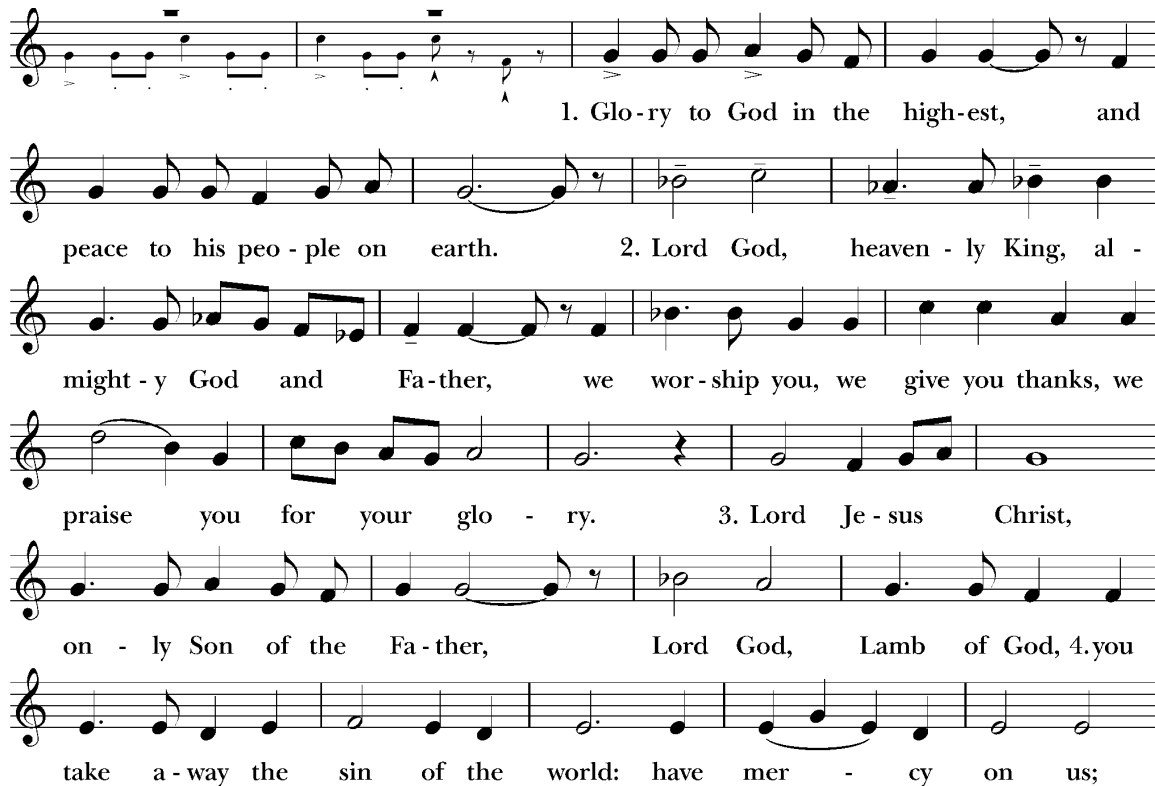
Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

The Gloria



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.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 224

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

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

The Psalm will be read responsively by half 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.

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.**

Cantor sings Refrain; All repeat Refrain; Cantor sings verse; All repeat Refrain.

MELODY

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

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

Cantor: I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead and behold I am alive for evermore.

The Gospel

John 14:1-14

Deacon 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Dillon Green

A period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, *please stand as able*

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP 387

The Peace

BCP 360

The Announcements

Offertory Hymn 487

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

As the offerings are brought to the altar, standing as you are able, the following is sung to Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O praise him, O praise him,

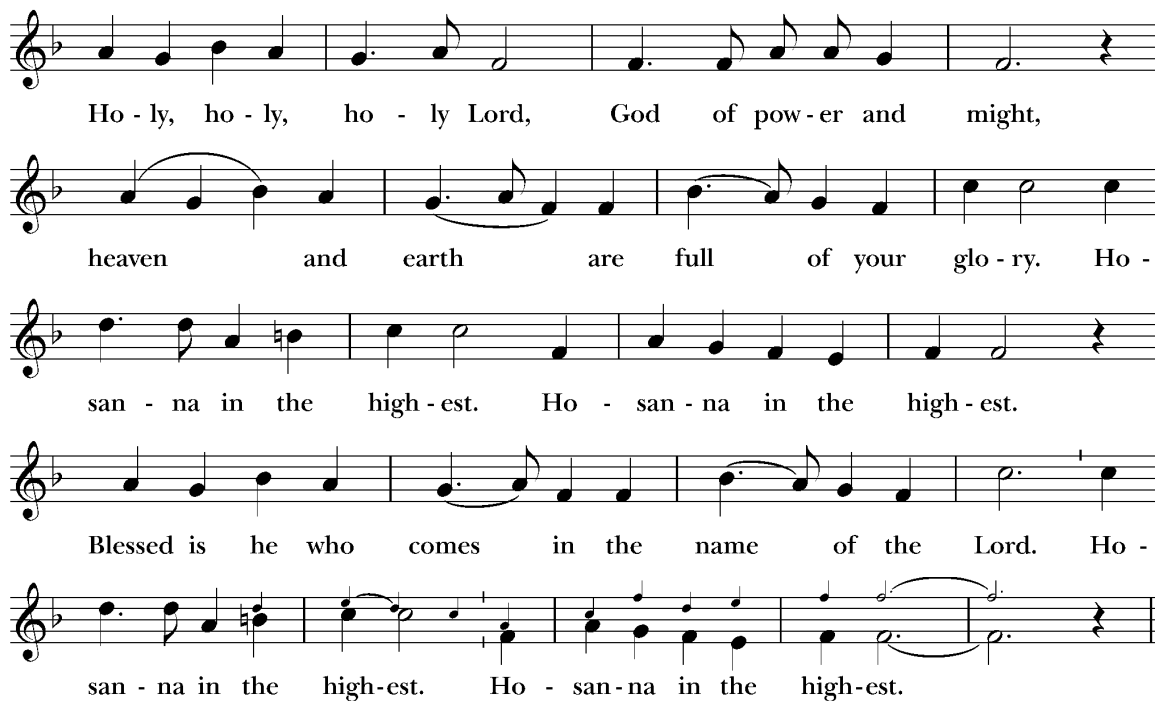
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Sanctus



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.

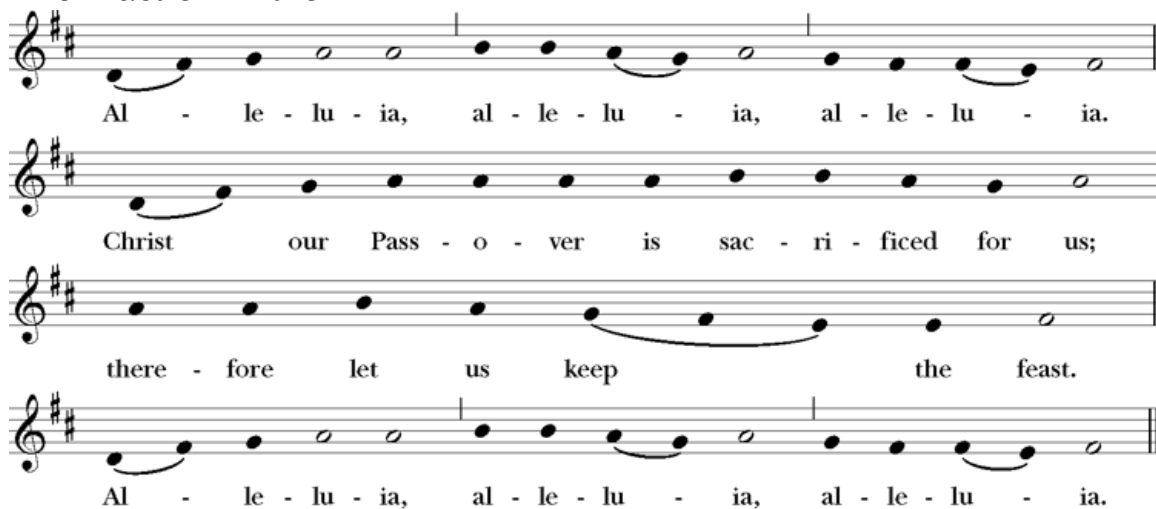
The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Invitation

BCP 364

Communion Hymn 51 We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Post-Communion Hymn 194

Jesus lives! thy terrors now

Dismissal

BCP 366

Postlude

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*Please join us for coffee hour
sponsored by Chris & Terri Stricklin!*

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd. We pray for seminarians graduating in May; for El Hogar and Farm School, Honduras; and for St. Dunstan's, Auburn.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Steven, Heather, Wendy, Angel, Marti, Joseph, Tracy, John, Sue, Addie, Wanda, Bill, Alice, Claire, Amy, Elizabeth, Sharon, Vicki, Roger, Will, Addi, Lawrence Louise, Sally, Lynnell, Marsha, Dennis, Durwood Graddy, Connie, Julie, Joe, and Olivia.

We pray those who serve in the military, especially John Morris.

We give thanks for all who celebrated birthdays this week, especially Jamie Johnson, Sharon Lewis, and Sophia Reimer. May they grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.

S A V E T H E D A T E S

Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Youth Group every Sunday at 9:00 am

May 23rd—ECW meeting at 12 pm

Notes

Our Mission

To seek, love, and serve God through worship, education, and service and to share the redeeming love of Christ with the world.

Our Vision

St. Catherine's, the Episcopal Church in Chelsea, is a welcoming and inclusive family called by Christ to receive and share God's love.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry
Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior
Assisting Bishop

The Rev. Dillon Green
Rector

The Rev. Clyde Pearce
Deacon

Dr. Matthew West, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Julie Seal
Parish Administrator

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

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