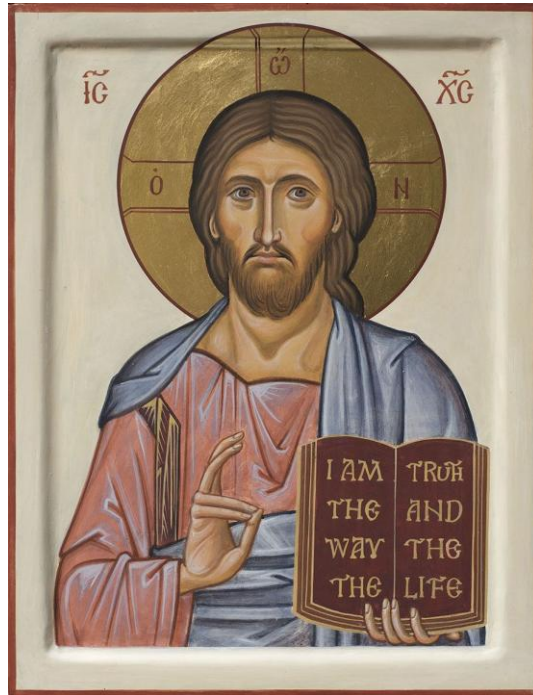


St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026



PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE REGINA CAELI

During Eastertide, the Regina Caeli replaces the Angelus as the prayer rung on the church bells before worship. One set of nine rings accompanies the anthem and another set of nine the concluding Collect. You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia;
For he who was born of your body, alleluia,

The second three bells Has arisen, as he promised, alleluia:
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

The third three bells Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

The nine bells O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, vouchsafed to give gladness to the world: Grant, we beseech you, that, with the help of the Virgin Mary his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN.....THE HYMNAL 1982, #487



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant 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.*

SONG OF PRAISE



Come in - to God's pres - ence sing - ing, "Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

Words and Music: Anon, arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) © 1990 Celebration, PO Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001 [www.communityofcelebration.com]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE (*chanted in unison*)

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

- 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 de|**liver 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 EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA



THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

Celebrant 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.”

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

THE SERMON.....*The Rev. Matthew Wright*

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition, the people sing in response:



Lord, hear our prayer. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains two phrases of music, each corresponding to the text 'Lord, hear our prayer.' The second staff contains a longer phrase of music corresponding to the text 'Lord, in your mer - cy, Lord, hear our prayer.'

Text and Music: Liam Lawton, b. 1959; © 1995

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*sung by choir*)

DOXOLOGY (*sung in unison*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love, before, beneath, around, above.
A - men.

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

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.

COMMUNION HYMN.....THE HYMNAL 1982, #306

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;
 2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met;
 3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,
 4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee,

nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
 thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:
 one Church u - ni - ted in com - mun - ion blest;
 who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest
 "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;

in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
 faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
 be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Sursum Corda*, Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971). Copyright © 1941, Mrs. Alfred M. Smith.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN (*see following page*)*THE HYMNAL 1982, #243*



1 When Ste-phen, full of power and grace, went forth through-out the
 2 When Ste-phen preached a - gainst the laws and by those laws was
 3 When Ste-phen, young and doomed to die, fell crushed be - neath the
 4 Let me, O Lord, thy cause de - fend, a knight with - out a



land, he bore no shield be - fore his face, no
 tried, he had no friend to plead his cause, no
 stones, he had no curse nor venge - ful cry for
 sword; no shield I ask, no faith - ful friend, no



wea - pon in his hand; but on - ly in his
 spokes - man at his side; but on - ly in his
 those who broke his bones; but on - ly in his
 venge - ance, no re - ward; but on - ly in my



heart a flame and on his lips a sword where -
 heart a flame and on his eyes a light where -
 heart a flame and on his lips a prayer that
 heart a flame and in my soul a dream, so



with he smote and o - ver - came the foe-men of the Lord.
 with God's day - break to pro - claim and rend the veils of night.
 God, in sweet for - give-ness' name, should un - der-stand and spare.
 that the stones of carth - ly shame a jew - cled crown may seem.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Salvation*, melody from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; harm. *Songs for Liturgy and More Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1971; alt. harm. Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929).

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**