



4300 N. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
480-947-5525  
Pastor Sandy Jones  
[www.bethanyscottsdale.com](http://www.bethanyscottsdale.com)

# **Worship**

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **April 28, 2024**

---

## **THE GATHERING**

---

**Greeting and Announcements**  
**Preparation for Worship**

*You are invited to stand as you are comfortable*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

***May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.***

~ written by Joanna Harader

**GATHERING HYMN – *Be Still My Soul – You Tube***

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**KYRIE**

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

P For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

P For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, and defend, O God.

**C Amen**

## HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria, Heritage Mass*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:

C O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*You may be seated*

---

## THE WORD

---

### First Reading – Acts 8:26-40

*(Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.)*

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.

*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.*

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm – Psalm 22:25-31**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### **Second Reading – 1 John 4:7-21**

*(We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.)*

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.

*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.*

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to stand as you are comfortable*

**Gospel Acclamation**

***Alleluia.*** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. ***Alleluia.***

P The holy Gospel according to John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Reading – John 15:1-8**

*(On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.)*

[Jesus said:]<sup>1</sup>"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."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

**Sermon**

*You are invited to stand as you are comfortable*

**HYMN OF THE DAY – O Blessed Spring – You Tube**

## **AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH**

**P** We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

**C** **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*You may be seated*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially our loved ones; Martha, Brian, Jerry, Julie, David, Jack, Tom, James, Don, Guy, Gigi. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

What else do the people of God wish to lift up to God today..... God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.  
**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let's share God's peace with one another.

---

## **THE MEAL**

---

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it.  
We continue with the offering.

### **OFFERING HYMN**

*You are invited to stand as you are comfortable*  
**OFFERTORY – Make Me a Servant – You Tube**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

**May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.**

**Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

P By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**



## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C 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, forever and ever. AMEN.**

## **COMMUNION INVITATION**

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

*You may be seated*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*You are invited to stand as you are comfortable*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

**C** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

---

## **THE SENDING**

---

## **BENEDICTION**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

**C Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN – *Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359***

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Bethany's Mission Statement –  
Accepting  
Serving  
Loving . . .  
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist:	Kristan Youn
Lector	Mary Anne Clark
Communion	Cheryl Krummel & Karen Maglich
Ushers	Karla Dasen & Bud Morrison
Production	Carla Roberts