

St. James Anglican Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter – Sunday May 3rd, 2026

Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Celebrant & Homilist: Rev. Ron McLean

Mr. Jeff Campbell, Director of Music

Organ Prelude

Processional Hymn # 461 (CP) “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Morning Light

Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

The Gloria # 702 (CP)

Gathering Prayer

I Generous God, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share in the work of peace; through Jesus Christ the cornerstone. **Amen.** Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading from Acts 7: 55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Helper of the helpless, comfort of the afflicted, may your servants who stand in the midst of evil find strength in the knowledge of your presence, and praise you for the wonders of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Second Reading from 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Before the Gospel #715 (CP) "Alleluia"

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'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

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People

Beth Morum, *Lay Reader*

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" *Here I am, Lord*

V1

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry; all who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night; I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

V2

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain; I have wept for love of them: they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

V3

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame; I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

The Eucharist

Prayer before Communion

Eternal God, your only Son suffered death upon the cross to bring the world salvation. Accept the praise and thanksgiving we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer # 3

The Lord be with you.

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining your voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

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

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Invitation to the Table

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

#747 (CP) "Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert/Proulx

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish communion but a blessing, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. In the Anglican tradition wine is administered from a chalice or common cup. If you do not wish to receive from the chalice you can cross your arms, and the words of institution will be said. We do not practice intinction or dipping the bread in the cup.

Music During Communion

Hymn

"Blest are They"

V1

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

V2

Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.

Refrain

V3

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.

Refrain

V4

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

V5

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

Hymn "I Will Come to You" *You Are Mine*

V1

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

Refrain

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

V2

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

Refrain

V3

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

Refrain

V4

I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!

Refrain

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, you have called us to your table and fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Glory to God,

whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #550 (CP) "Light's Abode, Celestial Salem"

Dulce Carmen

Dismissal

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves! And go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sung Benediction

"Lift High the Cross"

Crucifer

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name! Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout! If we are silent, even stones cry out. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name!

Organ Postlude

"Rigaudon"

arr. David H. Hegarty

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