



St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELLINS

MAY 18, 2025
8:00 & 10:00 AM
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#31. What is the reason for the large, single candle lit and placed in the center of the chancel during the Easter season?

The large candle in the center of the chancel is called the Paschal Candle. Episcopal Churches share this liturgical tradition with Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic Churches. The Paschal Candle is always the largest candle in the worship service, normally at least 24 inches tall, and at least 2 inches in diameter. It is decorated with symbols of Christ's presence and work among us, including a cross and the Greek letters alpha and omega. One might argue that, while all of the other candles in the worship space are more or less optional, the Paschal Candle is the only candle which is required for worship.

The lighting of the Paschal Candle is the first ritual of the Easter Vigil. After the Paschal Candle is lit the deacon or priest sings *The Exultet*, a hymn of praise describing God's work and Christ's work in bringing reconciliation and salvation to humankind. With *The Exultet* in mind, the Paschal Candle places God's saving work in the center of our worship throughout the Easter Season, up through the day of Pentecost.

The Paschal Candle is also lit at every baptism service. The symbolism of the Paschal Candle at baptism comes from St. Paul's description of our participation in Christ's work of kenosis, or self-emptying. In chapter six of Romans St. Paul describes the practice of Christians of emptying their lives of sins. Paul makes a connection between us emptying ourselves of the power of sin through baptism, and Christ's emptying of himself through his death: *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE • *Andante espressivo*

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 315 • “Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray”

Song I

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

CANTICLE •

Festival Canticle

Antiphon

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

3 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion. [Ant.]

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

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Acts 11:1-18

Lector

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Lector

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

People

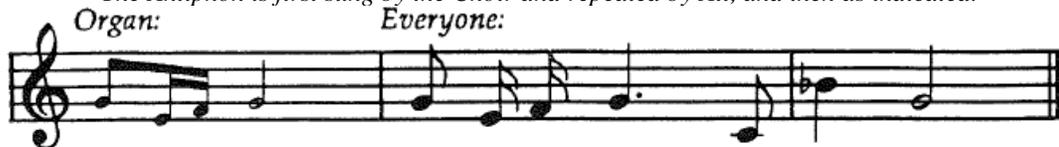
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

PSALM • 148 *Laudate Dominum*

Peter Hallock (1924-2014)

The Antiphon is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.



Sing to the Lord a new song.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; **Antiphon**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; **Antiphon**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together. **Antiphon**

Let them praise the Name of the LORD, for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! **Antiphon**

EPISTLE • Revelation 21:1-6

Lector

A reading from the Revelation to John.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the

thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Lector

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

People

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN • 487 "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"

The Call

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • John 13:31-35

Celebrant

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Celebrant

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Phillip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, translated here as “we believe.” Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be “we give our heart,” “we trust,” “we rely upon.” Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two

thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All **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.**

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, long ago faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Let all creation give thanks to the Risen Lord. **Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

We pray for the leaders of the Church, Sean our presiding Bishop, DeDe our Bishop, Philip our Rector, and all our laity. May the joy of the resurrection empower them.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Let all creation give thanks to the Risen Lord. **Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray for those in poverty, sickness, and war. We pray for *n*.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Let all creation give thanks to the risen Lord. **Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

Resurrecting God, you conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. We pray for those who have died, especially for *n.*, and for those whose names have been forgotten. Raise us with Christ that we may proclaim healing and peace to all.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Let all creation give thanks to the risen Lord. **Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

When our lives seem empty, we assume that Christ has been taken away. When our lives are painful, we assume that Christ has been taken away. And yet, Christ is risen.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Let all creation give thanks to the risen Lord. **Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

The people are invited to stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting **73256** entering **stpaulsy** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Please be seated.

ANTHEM

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty, glorious in power eternal, mighty and loving Father; praise Him for His greatness, for His exceeding greatness. Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty, let all extol Him for evermore. Praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God; glorious and mighty, loving Father, glorious ever in majesty. Praise to Thy Name, Thy holy Name for evermore. God is nigh to all that call truly upon Him; the Lord upholdeth all who fall, the Lord upraiseth those who are bowed down. Great and glorious...

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

8:00

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

10:00 Hymnal S-154

From *New Plainsong*; (b.1950)

The people are invited to be seated.

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. We are not dipping the bread into the wine at this time. Our understanding is that the sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

^s *During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM • "I give you a new commandment"

Peter Nardone (b.1965)

HYMN AT COMMUNION 463 • "He is the Way"

Hall

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant
All

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 175 • “Hail thee, festival day!” (v.1,2,7,8)

Salve festa dies

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE • “Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German (b. 1954)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W., Fred K., Anne D., Kira D., Kerstin J.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The flowers are given by John and Candace Marsellus in honor of Bettina Castle, Margaret Marsellus and the Very Reverend William M. Hale.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Georgette & Tim Schmidt

Lay Readers: Terri Tuttle / Sue Stinson

Ushers: Greg Tuttle / Derina Samuel

Flower Guild: Marion Greenhalgh

Announcements

* Tours of the *Open Doors* construction will be offered this morning following each worship service.

* On Sunday, May 25th, Memorial Day Weekend, we will hold just one worship service, at 10 a.m.

* On Saturday, June 7th, St. Paul's will serve lunch at the Samaritan Center. Please contact Betsy Elkins for more information.

Giving Made Easy



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St. Paul's
Episcopal Church.



Memorial Day Remember and Honor

There will be a single service at
10:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 25th

Officers

Senior Warden: Joe Moorman
Junior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

2025

Vestry & Team Leaders

2025: Matthieu van der Meer, Harry Lambright, Barbara Bell
2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Joe Russo, Tim Simmons
Finance Committee Chairperson: David Ridings
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Elizabeth Belden-Handler
Pastoral Care Leader: Kira Dirghalli
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

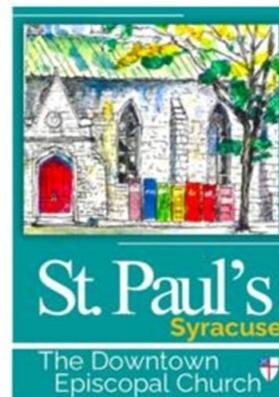
Staff

The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe, Bishop of Central New York
The Reverend Philip Major, Rector of St. Paul's
James L. Potts, Organist and Choirmaster
Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Operations Manager
Doug Mouncey, Parish Assistant (Volunteer)
Mark King, Technology Assistant
Derek Lane, Security



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