



ST. SIMON'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

St. Simon's is called to care for our own in every generation and to tend to our neighbors as ourselves.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

APRIL 28, 2024 – 9:30 A.M.



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY on the Hymn Tune *Middlebury*

arr. J. Leavitt

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “God is Love”

Hymnal 379

Tune: *Abbot's Leigh*

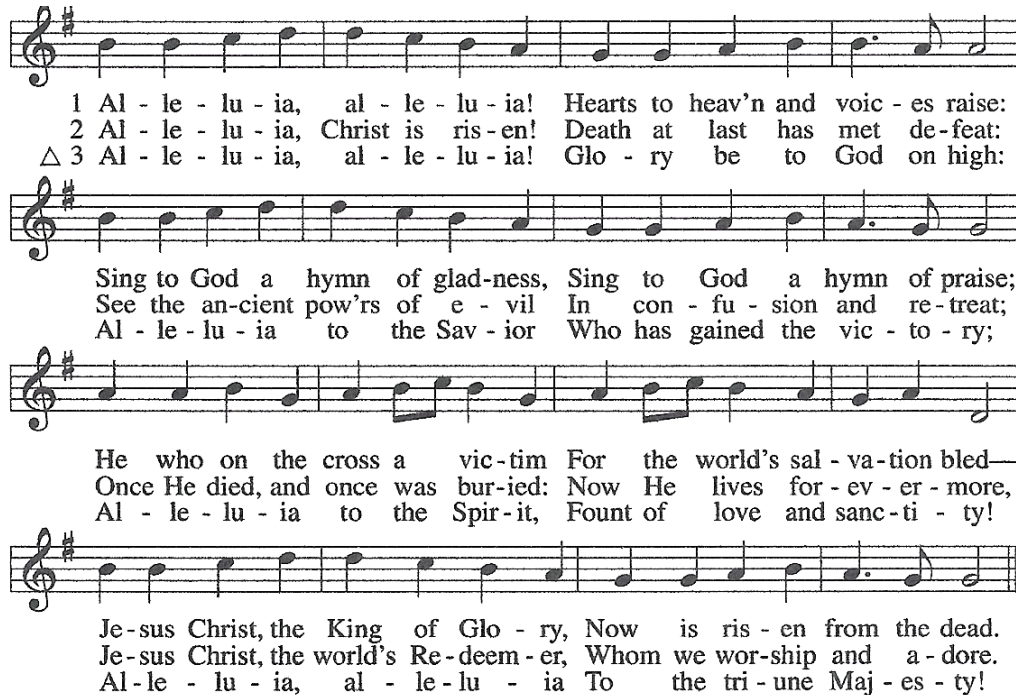
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 Δ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:
 Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
 See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;
 He who on the cross a vic - tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!
 Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 22:24-30



My praise is of him in the great as/sembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship / him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise / him: *
“May your heart live for ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the / Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before /him.
For kingship belongs to the / Lord; *
he rules over the / nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in / worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before / him.
My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve / him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for / ever.
They shall come and make known to a people yet un/born *
the saving deeds that he has / done.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN "Come away to the skies"

Hymnal 213

Tune: *Middlebury*

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Jane M. Weston

A time of silence follows the sermon.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III, BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "I will be the vine"

L. Lawson

PRESENTATION HYMN "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

B. Wren

Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 361

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you ...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

Hymnal S-129

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...

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 for ever. **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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

INVITATION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION HYMN "Come my way, my truth, my life"

Hymnal 487

Tune: *The Call*

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.

EASTER BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Love divine, all loves excelling”

Hymnal 657
Tune: *Hyfrydol*

DISMISSAL

Response **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY on the Hymn Tune *Lasst uns erfreuen*

arr. D. Schack

Music reprinted is in the public domain, or under One License A - 708775.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diocesan Youth Graduation at St. Simon’s

The youth of the Diocese of Atlanta will have their graduation Eucharist and reception at St. Simon’s on Sunday, May 5 at 4 p.m. Diocesan youth will lead the service and Bishop Wright will be the celebrant. We could use some volunteers to help that Sunday afternoon. All are invited to the service as well.

St. Simon’s Anniversary Celebration is June 9!

St. Simon’s turns 60 on June 7, 2024. We will celebrate our anniversary on Sunday, June 9 and want a full house. Bishop Wright will join us for the day. At this juncture, we know we will need extra help with hospitality, decorating, and with some landscaping. Please talk with Marjorie Lewars or Marva Duncan if you can help.

New Junior Warden

Leslie Lambert is the new St. Simon’s Junior Warden for 2024. Please thank Leslie for taking on this role of leadership in the church.

Day by Day

The new Day by Day devotional books are inside the backdoor of the church for purchase.

Evening Prayer On-Line

Join us for Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Look for the Zoom link in Friday’s e-news. The passcode is 662570.

St. Simon’s Book Group

St. Simon’s Book Group will choose its next book at next meeting. If you are looking for lively conversation, please join us. The group meets at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Vestry room.

April Birthdays

Roy Jones, April 1; Janet Grant-Tyndall, April 4; Debra Brown, April 5, Phyllis Talmadge, April 8; Gregory Clark, April 8; Steve Boyle, April 10; Kelsey Andries, April 10; Albert Jones, April 10; Nolan Lewars Martinez, April 10; Cecil Tyndall, April 12; Faye Chapman, April 13; Dona Bobb, April 15; Hallie Sway, April 15; Alex Seales, April 20; Gay Morrison, April 24; Gale Thomas-Jones, April 25; Sue Zimmer-Dauphinee, April 28; Clavel Gittens, April 28; Kaeden Brotherson, April 29; and Oliver Johnson, April 29.

Prayer List

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested: Virginia Below, Dona Bopp, John Boswell, Carol Bugg, Georgia Mae Carter, Leone David, Barbie Dorow, Gerry Fosnot, Violet Gittens, Eda Grant, Elizabeth Hart, Donald Hopwah, Olivia Johnson, Russ Johnson, Albert Jones, Gale Thomas-Jones, Olive Perry, Rachel Price, Dot Rascoe, Pamela Gale Smith, Leonard Tyndall, and the Zimmer-Dauphinee family.

ST. SIMON'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop of Atlanta

The Rev. Jane Mitchell Weston, Priest-in-Charge

jweston@stsimonsconyers.org

The Rev. Terry R. Howell, Deacon

Tim Young, Parish Musician

Mary Pickering, Parish Administrator

Kathy Ethridge, Parish Administrator

Hallie Sway, Bookkeeper

Amanda Vaughn, Communications

ST. SIMON'S VESTRY

Greta Ann Hurst, Senior Warden

Class of 2024

Bob DiVito

Greta Ann Hurst

Leslie Lambert

Class of 2025

Marva Duncan

Joan Nwasike

Bill Thomas

Class of 2026

Charmaine Pollydore

Valerie Hamm, Clerk of Vestry

Lillie Nesbit, Treasurer