

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church Spring, Texas The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two 10:00 AM

Welcome one and all this morning! If you are new here, we would love to get to know you a bit better. Please fill out a brief welcome form at heec.link/welcome or scan this QR code



The children's nursery is in the Education Building. All children ages 0-3 years are welcome, our staff has completed the child safety course, Safeguarding God's Children. A family room is also available near the woman's restroom.

Please ask an usher for an assisted listening device to help hear the service.

Our Mission

We worship God, love our neighbors, create community, follow Jesus, and steward our resources.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL: (H 203) O sons and daughters, let us sing (All singing)

Anitphon sung at the beginning and the end



OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

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.**



COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

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.**

Please be seated for the lessons.

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 Read responsively by whole verse.

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD;

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

A Reading from the First letter of John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

A moment of reflection.

THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358) – Please stand.

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 (BCP p. 359)

Lector: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

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

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Lector: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

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

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

Bob, Melanie, Barbara, Rick, Ann, Bob, Kathleen, Rosa, Frank, Lisa, and Don;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Lector: Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Mae;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Please add your own petitions.

Silence

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant: 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 (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The people may exchange signs of peace with one another.

OFFERTORY

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to

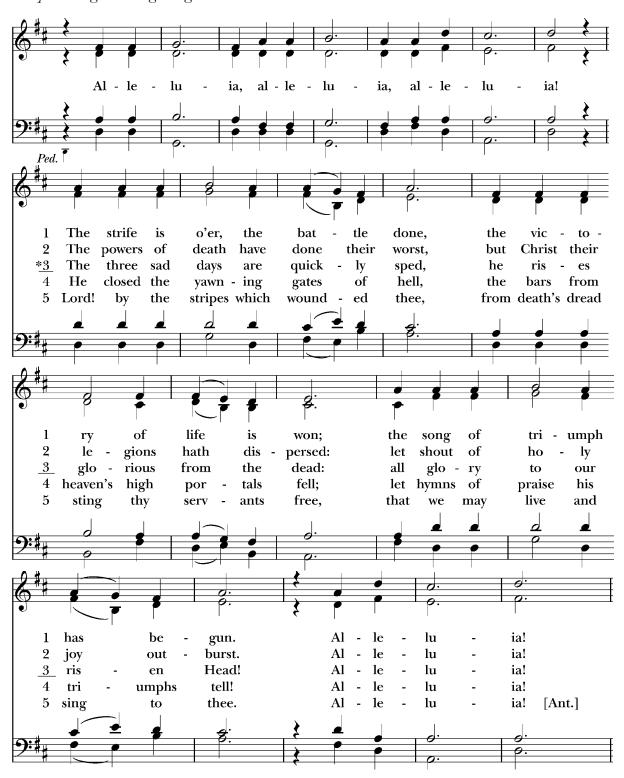
God. Ephesians 5:2

Place the wooden tokens and financial gifts in the offering plate. You may make a gift online in Church Center at www.hcec.link/give or text a dollar amount to 84321.

Please stand as the gifts (bread and wine and offering) are presented and placed on the altar, and remain standing for The Great Thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY HYMN: (H 208) The strife is o'er, the battle done

Antiphon sung at the beginning and the end



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 367)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

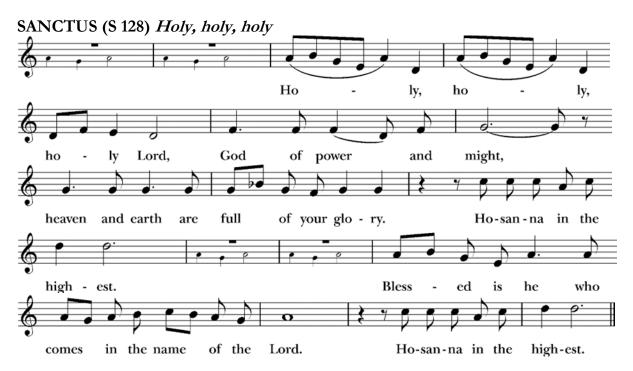
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:



Celebrant continues: (BCP p. 368)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People:

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem (S 155) Christ our Passover



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

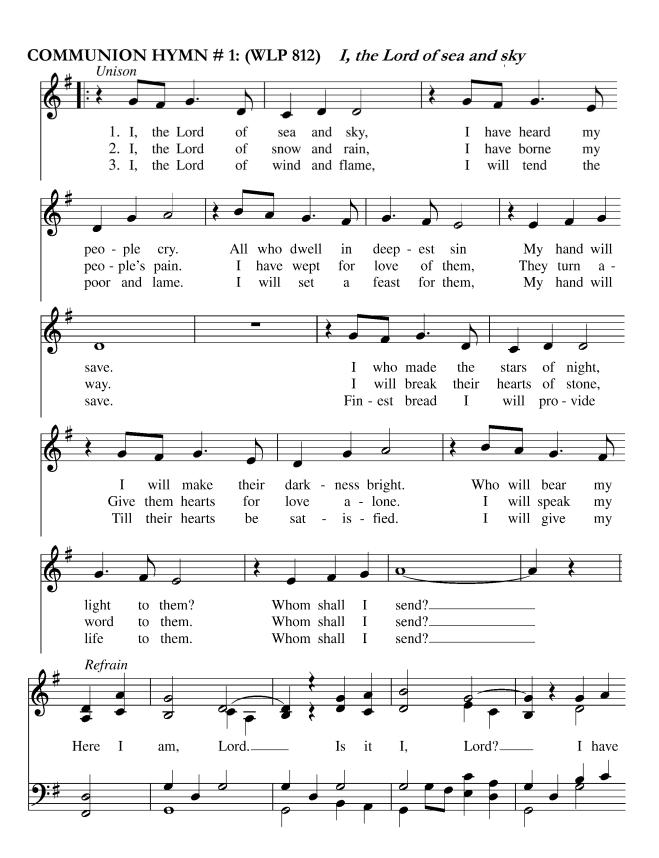
The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.** The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

All who seek God's blessing are welcome. If you are not yet baptized, or do not wish to receive for any reason, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing.

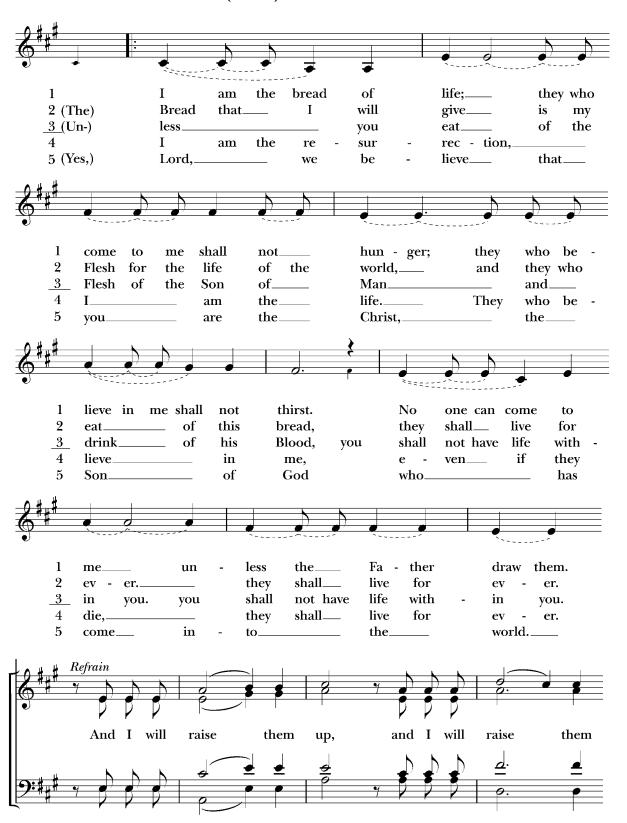
All baptized Christians are invited to receive the bread and wine. To receive a wafer of bread, extend your hands with your palms up; to receive a gluten free wafer, extend your hands with your palms down. You may either drink from the chalice or dip the bread in the wine. If you wish to be baptized, please let John know.

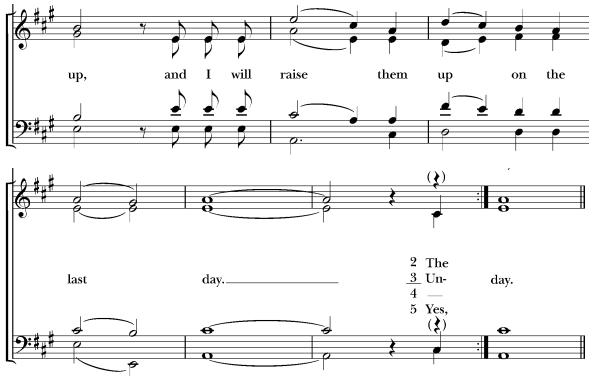
Prayer partners are available in the chapel to pray with you about anything on your heart.





COMMUNION HYMN # 2: (H 335) I Am the Bread of Life





The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365) Please stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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.



BLESSING

DISMISSAL (BCP P. 366)

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Altar Flowers

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in Memory of Marylou Otto by Sheila Otto.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Bob Lowry – healing
Ann Rodriguez – healing
Rick Sadler – healing
Barbara Lafreniere - healing
Bob & Kathleen Gissler – healing
Rosa Garcia – healing
Frank Duffy – healing
Melanie Coe – healing
Lisa & Don Taylor – healing
Mae Smith – received by God in death

Vestry Person of the Day – Shawn Henners

Time and Talent Commitment Campaign: The stewardship committee invites everyone, regardless of age, to commitment your time and gifts to "worshiping God, loving our neighbors, creating community, following Jesus and stewarding our resources". Please use this online link to make your commitment: https://www.holycomforterspring.org/2024-commitment

Time and Talent Celebration: On Sunday May 19th, join us for a catered lunch after the 10 AM Worship Service to celebrate Pentecost and our commitments of Time and Talents to Holy Comforter's mission.

Relational Evangelism Workshop: Jesus asks his followers to share the good news about him to others. Join our five-week course to grow in your evangelism. There are two parts to the workshop each week, an online component and an in-person session. The in-person portion will be offered at multiple times each week. Sign up for the online portion at www.hcec.link/pathwright and sign up for one of the in-person sessions at www.hcec.link/signup.

Blessing Bags for Salyer's Elementary: Holy Comforter is a partner church for Salyer's Elementary (a Title 1 school located in Spring ISD). We are providing Blessing Bags to all the teachers and staff for the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6 - May 10). If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Linda Astala, astala.linda@gmail.com

National Day of Prayer: The church will be open for prayer from 9am-4pm on May 2. All are welcome to stop by and pray.

Save the Date: Feast of the Ascension Holy Eucharist, Thursday, May 9th at 7 PM.

THIS MONTH'S LOVE IN ACTION

For the month of April we will be supporting YES to YOUTH – Montgomery County. This organization provides several important resources to youth and families such as crisis intervention, counseling and a safe and nurturing home. To view the full list of items to consider donating, please visit www.hcec.link/announcements.

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8 am – Rite I Sunday 10 am – Rite II (Music, Nursery) Wednesday 9 am – Morning Prayer Rite II – Chapel

WEEKLY FORMATION CLASSES

Various Times

Discipleship Small Groups, www.hcec.link/dsg Relational Evangelism Workshop

Sunday 9 am

Word Made Fresh Book Study – Ed Bldg. Room 2 Sunday 11 am

Episcopal Youth Community – EYC 6th-12th grade Parenting with Grace – Ed Bldg. Room 2 Weaving God's Promises for Kids – Ed Bldg. Room 1

MONTHLY MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Lunch Bunch – First Sunday after 10 AM service Book Club – Third Tuesday 7 pm – Zoom Tackle Life Market – Second Saturday 9am-2pm

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