

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Fifth Sunday of Lent – April 6, 2025

WE GATHER IN PENITENCE AND PRAISE

PRELUDE Now Let Us All with One Accord *Tune: Bourban; Arr. Robert Lind*

OPENING HYMN Be Unto Your Name Lynn DeShazo, Gary Sadler 1998

We are a mo - ment, You are for - e - ver, Lord of the a - ges,
We are the bro - ken, You are the heal - er, Je - sus, Re - deem - er,

God be - fore time; We are a va - por, You are e - ter - nal,
might - y to save You are the love song, we'll sing for - ev - er,

Refrain

Love ev - er - last - ing, reign - ing on high. Ho - ly, ho - ly,
bow - ing be - fore you, bless - ing your Name.

Lord God Al - might - y, Worth - y is the Lamb who was slain; High - est prai - ses,
ho - nor and glo - ry be un - to your Name; be un - to your Name.

RITE OF PENITENCE: A COMMON CONFESSION

This morning we are invited to reflect on our complicity in societal sin and oppression, systemic racism and poverty, armed conflict, exploitation of the earth, its creatures and our fellow human beings. What area of corporate sin makes you wince?

Presider Christ calls his church to follow him, standing by those who suffer and are in need, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Let us confess the ways in which we fail to follow God's call to justice and mercy.

O God, you bring justice to the oppressed and give bread to the hungry.

Forgive us when we hoard our wealth and our privileges.

You free the prisoner and restore sight to the blind.

Forgive us when we overlook those in need.

You welcome the marginalized and protect the stranger.

Forgive us when we seek our own security at the expense of others.

You block evildoers and help orphans and widows.

Forgive us when we fail to use our strength to protect the weak.

You stand against oppression and with the wronged.

Forgive us when we are silent in the face of injustice.

You judge those who seek their own interests, controlling and harming others.

Forgive us when we fail to challenge the powerful.

You bring about true peace among people.

Forgive us when sow discord.

Grant us your grace, O Lord.

Embolden us that, as your people, we may stand where you stand.

In the silence, please name anything we have forgotten.

SONG OF REPENTANCE Lord have mercy Graham Kendrick, 1986

Lord, have mer - cy on us, Come and heal our land.

Cleanse with your fire, heal with your touch, Hum - bly we bow and

call up - on you now. O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Presider God's life-giving Word and Spirit forgive you and enable you to live in a new obedience and vulnerability, opening new possibilities of life for our communities and the world. Thanks be to God for the Good News:

People **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

OPENING PRAYER

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Holy Lord, God of and earth, author of time, we thank you for welcoming us into your house, for giving us this shelter from the storms and busyness of our lives. Send your Spirit upon us now. Fill us with your love to drive out our fears, your joy to lighten our burdens, your peace to still our spirits, that we may become bearers of peace, in the name of Christ, our Lord of the Sabbath: *Amen.*

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us:

People **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 34:4-8, 12-14

- 4 I sought the Lord, and God answered me, **and delivered me from all my fears.**
- 5 Look to God, and be radiant; **so your faces shall never be ashamed.**
- 6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, **and was saved from every trouble.**
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear God, **and delivers them.**

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; **happy are those who take refuge in God.**

12 Who among you loves life **and desires long life enjoy prosperity?**

13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking **and your lips from lying words.**

14 Turn from evil and do good; **seek peace and pursue it.**

GOSPEL REFRAIN

Come into the Quiet

Diane Davis Andrew

Come in-to the qui-et, be one with God's breath. Rest in this
wait-ingplace peace will be there. Rest, rest, peace will be there.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:11b-32

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON "Receiving Peace/Sharing Peace" The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG Come unto me Jami Smith, 2002

Come un - to me, all you who are wea-ry;
Come un - to - me all you who need rest; Take up my
yoke and learn all a - bout - me, and I will give you rest

OUR PRAYERS (Please stand as you are able and form a circle.)

Lord have mercy. **Kyrie eleison.**

Christ have mercy. **Christe eleison.**

Lord have mercy. **Kyrie eleison.**

Let us be at peace within ourselves. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved and need never be afraid.

Christ, have mercy.

Let us be aware of the source of being that is common to us all and to all living creatures.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Christ, have mercy.

Realizing that we are all nourished from the same source of life, may we so live that others be not deprived of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be a cause of suffering to one another.

Christ, have mercy.

With humility let us pray that peace be established in our hearts and on earth.

Lord, have mercy.

May God kindle in us the fire of love to bring us alive and give warmth to the world.

Christ, have mercy.

We lift up other thanksgivings and prayers for the world, the church, people we love.

Presider: Gracious God: Grant that we may have in us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (Please rise in body or spirit)

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

As a sign of our unity, please share Christ's peace with your neighbors.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Please support our mission as you feel moved - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256 or online at <https://christchurchlaplata.org/donate/> or cash in the offering plate. Thank you!

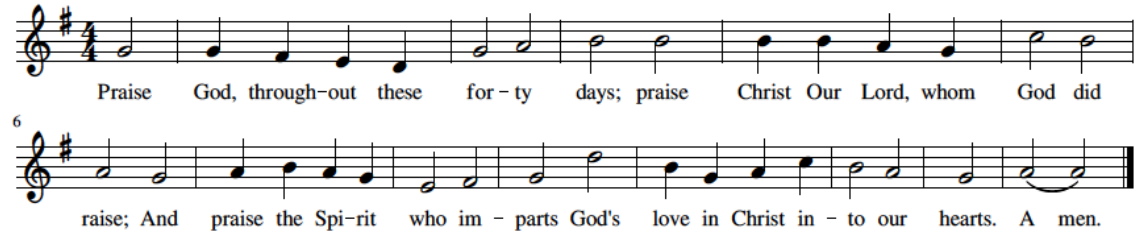


OFFERTORY HYMN

Forgive our sins

Hymnal 674

DOXOLOGY (LENTEN)



Praise God, through-out these for-ty days; praise Christ Our Lord, whom God did raise; And praise the Spi-rit who im - parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A men.

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people are invited to pray the words in bold type.

Presider The Lord be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Presider Lift up your hearts.
 People **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks, Almighty God, who was before all worlds began, who is outside of time; who will be for all eternity.

You are our beginning, and in you we will find our perfect end.

All our years and moments are hidden in you;

Through you all things were made; in you all things are sustained.

God, you made us for relationship with you,

to live in harmony with You and all Your creation.

When we walked away from you into disobedience, that harmony was broken;

Our intimacy with you became fractured and strained;

Our relationships with each other became marked by tension and strife.

The very creation became broken and disordered, yielding wars and tumults.

Peace became the rare exception; “not-peace” our daily bread.

Into this “not-peace” You sent Your Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

He came as one of us, and saw how we lived with each other and the earth,

And he said STOP. (*Time of silence.*) He said, “Why are you afraid?”

He stilled the storm, threw out demons, healed diseases, overcame death.

He said, “Peace be with you,” and breathed upon His disciples His Holy Spirit.

He gives us peace in unpeaceful times;

he makes us bearers of peace to an unpeaceful world.

On the night he was betrayed and arrested, our Lord Jesus had supper with his friends. He took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, **“Take, eat: This is my Body, given for you. Do this to remember 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, sealing God’s promise to forgive your sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.”**

And so we stop, to remember Him:

We remember Him in the breaking of the bread.

We recall His suffering and death on the Cross;

We celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and look forward to his coming in glory.

Come upon this bread and this wine, most Holy Spirit:

Feed us deep in our spirits with the very life of Christ himself.

Come to us, Lord Jesus, by your Holy Spirit:

Give us your peace in all circumstances; help us to trust you more and more.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Jesus’ Original*)

Our Father in heaven,
 holy is your Name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread,
 And 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 LORD’S PRAYER (*Elizabethan translation*)

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

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God

Kate Heichler, 2006

Je-sus, La- mb of God, have mer- cy on us; Je- sus, Bear- er of our sins, have mer- cy; Je- sus,
 Light and Re- deem- er of the world, Gra- nt us your peace; gra- nt us your peace.

*All are welcome to communion, coming up the center aisle and returning by the side aisles,
 disposing of the wine cup in the basket on your way back to your pew.
 Those who wish to sip from the common cup, please indicate so to the chalice bearer.
 If you don't wish to receive you may cross your arms for a blessing.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American Spiritual
Arr. Michael Larkin**PRAYER OF THANKS**

Most Holy God, thank you for feeding us with the very life of our Lord Jesus in these signs of his body and blood, poured out for us. Thank you for all the signs You show us of Your life in and around us. As we slow down and become more aware of where you are in everything, and where your life is manifest in us, fill us with your joy and your love and your peace, that we might bring those gifts to a world thirsty for you. In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray: Amen.

BLESSING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Almighty God, this meal does not end here – you continue to nourish us, and to feed others through us. Bless these elements and vessels, and the lay eucharistic visitors who carry them out, that your Body and Blood may nurture those members of our family unable to worship with us today.

PASTORAL BLESSING**PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES****COMMUNITY NEWS****AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE**

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (*Matthew 11:28-30*)

Lord, we are your servants. We will work for your glory with all our hearts and minds and strength; and, as you bid us, we will also rest in your peace and love.

CLOSING HYMN

What wondrous love is this?

Hymnal 439

SENDING*People* **Thanks be to God!****POSTLUDE**

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Johann G. Ebeling
Arr. Benjamin M. Culli**MUSIC AND WORSHIP NOTES**

Organ and Piano: Mary Kercher; *Guitar:* Kate Heichler; *Singers:* Evelyn Bowling, Mary and Barry Kercher; Sharon Moon, Sharon Richardson, Nada Vaughn
*Hymns are found in the hymnals in our pews, and words are provided on slides.
 Those worshiping online can click the link on the hymn name and find the tune there.*
 Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-725477. All rights reserved for copyrighted music.

OUR PRAYERS

We give thanks for: The hospitality we can offer our neighbors in beautiful space.
Milestones – Deanna Kamienski, Bill Cooke, Ed and Sue Murphy, Jackson Wilkinson, Brett Wilkinson, Melissa Gardiner
We pray for: The unemployed and unhoused.
Those in need of healing – Pat, Karen, Karyne Patsy, Gerald, Bill, Bob, James; Chris
Those who have died – Junior Burroughs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER AND EASTER EGGS – Please help us decorate the church for Easter by making **donations for flowers** given in memory of someone no longer with us, or in celebration for someone or something that brings you joy now. Fill out the form on envelopes provided, or use the online form by April 15. Be sure to indicate whether it's in memory of or in celebration for. We suggest \$10-15 per name.

We are also collecting **plastic Easter eggs and candy** for the Easter Egg Hunt that traditionally follows our worship Easter Sunday. Please drop those off in the parish hall by Sunday, April 13.

COMMUNITY SEDER – April 13, 5 pm, Congregation Sha'are Shalom – All are invited to celebrate a Passover meal with Southern Maryland's Reformed Jewish congregation, at 20 Henry Ford Circle in Waldorf. Please register [here](#).

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 17 – Holy Week will be upon us in a few weeks, starting with Palm Sunday April 13. We will have online services each evening that week with the exception of Thursday – that one takes place over dinner and really has to be experienced in person. We alternate between the two Christ Churches, and this year it is La Plata's turn to host. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can plan the food and arrangements for this powerful entry into the mystery of Christ's self-offering love.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER – April 13 - 20

Palm Sunday	Worship with procession and dramatic reading of Passion Story
Mon, Tue, Wed	Worship online at 7:30 pm
Maundy Thursday	Table Worship in La Plata, 6 pm
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross with Communion, Wayside, 12 pm Liturgy for Good Friday online at 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday	Festival Holy Eucharist, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

ONLINE GIVING – You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

GIVING FUND – Our Giving Fund is getting many requests – please give as you're able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER AND EASTER EGGS – Please help us decorate the church for Easter by making **donations for flowers** given in memory of someone no longer with us, or in celebration for someone or something that brings you joy now. Fill out the form on envelopes provided, or use the online form by April 15. Be sure to indicate whether it's in memory of or in celebration for. We suggest \$10-15 per name.

We are also collecting **plastic Easter eggs and candy** for the Easter Egg Hunt that traditionally follows our worship Easter Sunday. Please drop those off in the parish hall by Sunday, April 13.

COMMUNITY SEDER – April 13, 5 pm, Congregation Sha'are Shalom – All are invited to celebrate a Passover meal with Southern Maryland's Reformed Jewish congregation, at 20 Henry Ford Circle in Waldorf. Please register [here](#).

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 17 – Holy Week will be upon us in a few weeks, starting with Palm Sunday April 13. We will have online services each evening that week with the exception of Thursday – that one takes place over dinner and really has to be experienced in person. We alternate between the two Christ Churches, and this year it is La Plata's turn to host. Please sign up as soon as possible so we can plan the food and arrangements for this powerful entry into the mystery of Christ's self-offering love.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER – April 13 - 20

Palm Sunday	Worship with procession and dramatic reading of Passion Story
Mon, Tue, Wed	Worship online at 7:30 pm
Maundy Thursday	Table Worship in La Plata, 6 pm
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross with Communion, Wayside, 12 pm Liturgy for Good Friday online at 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday	Festival Holy Eucharist, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

ONLINE GIVING – You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

GIVING FUND – Our Giving Fund is getting many requests – please give as you're able.