

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



PRELUDE *Abide with Me*

Sandra Eithun

A bell rings three times; the people stand

Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN

GTG #374 O Holy City Seen of John

O holy city. Seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb does reign,
within whose four-square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain
and where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep again!

O shame to us who rest content while lust and greed for gain
in street and shop and tenement wring gold from human pain,
and bitter lips in deep despair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"

Give us, O God, the strength to build the city that has stood
too long a dream; whose laws are love, whose ways are servant hood,
and where the sun that shines becomes your grace for human good.

Already in the mind of God that city rises fair.
Lo, how its splendor challenges the souls that greatly dare,
and bids us seize the whole of life and build its glory there.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

GTG #54 Make A Joyful Noise to God!

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!

Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.

Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:

Walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.

Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure, let our songs of praise be heard!

By whose justice, we tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.

When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.

THE 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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

²**Praise him, all you angels of his; ***
praise him, all his host.

³Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise him, heaven of heavens, ***
and you waters above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.

⁶**He made them stand fast for ever and ever; ***
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸**Fire and hail, snow and fog, ***
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

- ⁹Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰**Wild beasts and all cattle, ***
creeping things and wingèd birds;
¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²**Young men and maidens, ***
old and young together.
¹³Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴**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!

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from the Revelation of 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; 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."

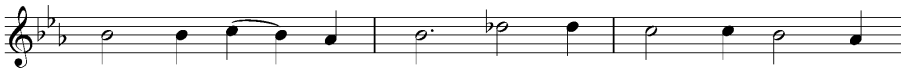
<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H# 487 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life



1 Come,	my	Way,	my	Truth,	my	Life:	such	a
2 Come,	my	Light,	my	Feast,	my	Strength:	such	a
3 Come,	my	Joy,	my	Love,	my	Heart:	such	a



way	as	gives	us	breath;	such	a	truth	as	ends	all
light	as	shows	a	feast;	such	a	feast	as	mends	in
joy	as	none	can	move;	such	a	love	as	none	can



strife;	such	a	life	as	kill	-	eth	death.
length;	such	a	strength	as	makes	_____	his	guest.
part;	such	a	heart	as	joys	_____	in	love.

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

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

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

[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 Jewish authorities so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'³ 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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

THE 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Brothers and sisters, grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ. The Lord has redeemed us; let us rejoice and be glad, saying, "You are our God; **and we thank you.**"

Celebrant Son of Righteousness, so gloriously risen, shine in our hearts as we celebrate our redemption, that we may see your way to our eternal home, where you reign, one holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

GATHERING

GTG #413 Come Into God's Presence

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

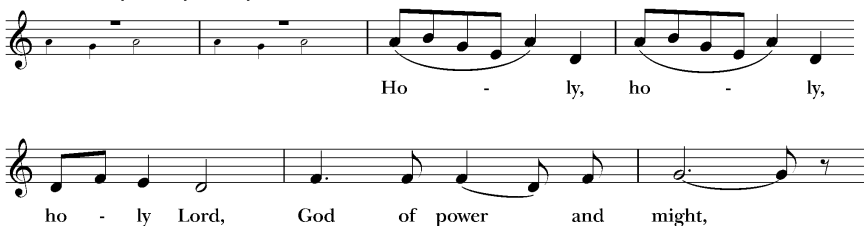
Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."

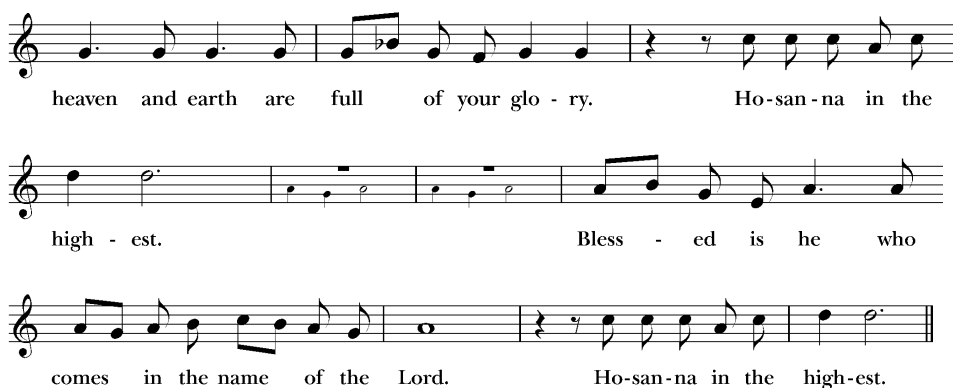
Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*





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,

***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

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S 154 Christ our Passover

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would

prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN

H# 304 I come with joy to meet my Lord

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of the sacred Three in One, the holy and undivided Trinity, be within you and among you forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN *H# 657 Love divine, all loves excelling*



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the first three lines of the hymn and the second and third columns containing the remaining lines. The lyrics are: 1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing, ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart. with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love. crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fri. 10:00 am

Vestry Meeting, Sun. May 18, 12:15 pm

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