



the well

Order of Worship

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

May 17, 2026

5:00 p.m.

*We welcome you to Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1839,
this Christian community has gathered for worship.*

 *The Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.*

Seventh Sunday of Easter

five o'clock in the evening

THE VERY REV. NATHANIEL KATZ, *Dean*
Celebrant

UGOCHUKWU OBUDULU, *Cantor*

BECKY BAXTER, *Music Coordinator and Harpist for The Well*

AMY WIGGS, *flautist*

FRAN KOINER, *cellist*

*Good evening and welcome to The Well. The order of service has been adapted
to observe the season of Easter. We are so glad that you are here.*

Come close, draw near, and receive the grace of God.

OPENING MUSIC

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH AND IRISH TUNES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING

Christ, you are risen from the dead. We are risen with you. May our life never deny this eternal life, this peace and hope and joy. Praise and glory to the God of life who is stronger than all kinds of death. **Amen. Alleluia.**

Please stand.

HYMN



1. God with us, the Lord of liv - ing, all cre - a - tion's bright ar - ray;
2. God with us, the light of glo - ry, love and praise to Christ be shown:



hearts for lov - ing and for - giv - ing, or - dered round of work and play -
love for our sal - va - tion's sto - ry, praise for Christ's e - ter - nal throne -



God with us, the Lord of liv - ing, year by year and day by day.
God with us, the light of glo - ry, glo - ry be to Christ a - lone.

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COLLECT OF THE DAY

Threefold One, relationship in unity, love given and received through all the ages long; give us that unity which is not enclosed but alive and accepting with the open heart of love; through Jesus Christ, the glory of God. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

Exsurgat Deus

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *

YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,

The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

Please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All sit.

THE REFLECTION

A period of silence is observed following the Reflection.

The People remain seated.

HYMN

1. Be Christ in my heart__ and__ mem - 'ry each
2. Be Christ my__ way,__ my__ truth and my__
hour. Be__ Christ in my ris - ing and__ in my ly - ing
life. Be__ Christ my__ ref - uge, my__ guar - dian and__
down. Be__ Christ my__ com - pan - ion__ and__
guide. Be__ Christ all__ my__ wis - dom, my__
soul - friend e - ver - more. Oh__ Christ dar - ling
love and my__ de - light. Oh__ Christ dar - ling
God, ne - ver__ part from me__ now.
God, ne - ver__ part from me__ now.

Trad. Gaelic melody, arr. Keith Duke ~ This music arrangement ©2005 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.
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THE NICENE CREED

The People stand.

Let us now stand and join the tradition of the saints who have gone before us, affirming our faith together by saying the ancient words of 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.**

INTERCESSIONS FOR EASTER

The intercessor says

Jesus has risen from the dead! Alleluia!

By his cross he has defeated the power of evil; and through his resurrection we are set free. Alleluia! Lord, without your resurrection our faith would be empty and without hope. But you are alive, and we rejoice and dance and wonder in the mystery of your presence among us.

We pray for your church: free us from the shackles of guilt and legalism, and help us to proclaim the message of healing and forgiveness for which you died.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, your friends and disciples must have been utterly bereft at your death, with all their hope and purpose broken. So we pray now for those who are in darkness and pain

today: those facing the keen disappointment of broken hopes; lives damaged by broken relationships and broken trust; people with broken hearts; bodies broken by torture; and spirits broken by injustice;

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

We pray, Lord, for broken communities, and we ask your forgiveness for our own apathy, and our desire to wash our hands of involvement in the plight of others.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers, and take them up into your creative energy of love which you let loose into the world on those extraordinary Passover days.

Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

SILENT PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Following the Intercessions during the instrumental music, you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayer. As we see others light candles, we recognize that we are all carrying prayer concerns known to us alone, and we are reminded to treat one another with kindness and care. Tapers and votives are located to the right of the altar and in front of the transept to the left. Please feel free to go to either of these places to light a candle.

The Celebrant will be available to anoint with oil all those who wish to come forward for healing prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Risen Christ, you breathe your Holy Spirit upon us like a gentle breeze and tell us: “Peace be yours.” We open ourselves to your peace, letting it penetrate the harsh and rocky ground of our hearts. Come and lead us to wait in silence, to let a ray of hope shine through in our world. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The Celebrant says

Christ descended to death and hell, passed through doors locked by fear to breathe the Spirit of peace and make us one humanity; nothing can now separate us from the love of God.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, after which the people are seated for brief announcements

To support the ministry outreach of the Cathedral, please scan to donate.



OFFERTORY HYMN



1. Oh the life of the world is a joy and a
3. Oh the life of the world is the source of our
4. So give thanks for the life and give love to the



treasure, unfolding in beauty the
healing. It rises in laughter and
Maker and rejoice in the gift of the



green-growing tree, the changing of seasons in
wells up in song; it springs from the care of the
bright risen Son. And walk in the peace and the



mountain and valley, the stars and the
poor and the broken and refreshes where
power of the Spirit till the days of our



bright rest-less sea.
justice is strong.
living are done.

Words: Kathy Galloway - Music: LIFE OF THE WORLD, Ian Galloway, arr. John L. Bell
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The Holy Communion

The people stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom.

From the nothingness of slavery you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed; you spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; he taught us to die that we might live.

He gave himself for us tortured and forsaken, but he could not be confined by death; in the garden he speaks our name, in the breaking of the bread he shows himself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, he calls us to take up his work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we come in memory and hope, responding to your call and the promise that echoes from the dawn of all time. May mind and heart be held by your self-giving love as we stand before the cross, approach the empty tomb and praise the one whose name is lifted high above all earthly power.

Receive our broken offering through his all-powerful grace, and bind us in communion with all who share your gifts; through Jesus Christ, in whom all ages and all the worlds are drawn into the ceaseless love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ;

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

At the direction of the ushers you are invited to form a single line in the central aisle to receive Communion in front of the altar.

The sacrament of Holy Communion has been precious to Christians for 2,000 years. It is a way in which many sense the reality of God's forgiveness, our union with God and each other, and the eternal life to which we belong. Please know that you do not have to be an Episcopalian to receive Communion. Receive the Bread in the palm of your hand and the Wine either by drinking from the cup or by intinction, touching the Bread to the Wine. Gluten-free Bread is available; simply ask. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.

The People stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands; the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to declare your truth, your unshakable faith in the world you love. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the living God remove the suffocating shroud that lies upon our world; may the risen Savior draw the sting of death, bringing all to life in him; may the flowing Spirit set us and all creation free and seal our hearts with faith; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

HYMN



1. Lord, whose love through hum - ble__ ser - vice bore the weight of
2. We, your ser - vants, bring the__ wor - ship not of voice a -
3. Called by wor - ship to__ your ser - vice, forth in your dear
4. Hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and



hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sa - ken,
lone, but__ heart, con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose
name we__ go, to the__ child, the youth, the a - ged,
peace we__ give, that your__ ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom



of - fered mer - cy's____ per - fect deed,
ev - ery gift that____ you im - part.
love in liv - ing____ deeds to show;
may your mer - cy____ know and live.

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THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Christ has conquered sin and death. The power of love has overcome the darkness. Let us go forth in the light and life of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING MUSIC

TRADITIONAL WELSH TUNE

Welcome

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Announcements

- ❖ **Whitsuntide Concert** • Join the choirs of Christ Church Cathedral on May 24 at 5 p.m. for a magnificent evening of choral and instrumental masterworks. The evening culminates in Joseph Haydn's powerhouse *Missa in Angustiis* (mass in troubled times), popularly known as the Lord Nelson Mass. More information on our announcements page.
- ❖ **Treble Choir of Houston's Spring Concert** • The annual spring concert of the Treble Choir of Houston is fast approaching and will be held at Trinity Downtown Church located at 800 Houston Ave, on Sunday, May 17, at 3 p.m. The concert is free to attend and more information may be found at: treblechoir.com.
- ❖ **Final Spring Neighborhood Gathering** • This spring Christ Church Cathedral has hosted a series of neighborhood get-togethers. It's a relaxed evening from 6-7:30 p.m. to meet new faces, catch up with old friends, and just enjoy being together outside of Sunday. There is one more event on Monday, May 18 (Southwest area). Spots are limited, so RSVP soon. Host and RSVP info at: christchurchcathedral.org/announcements.
- ❖ **Seeking Pentecost Readers** • We are looking for volunteers to proclaim the Gospel in various languages during our services on Sunday, May 24, as a powerful sign of the Holy Spirit's work among all people. While we have readers for Spanish, Italian, and German, we want to represent as many cultures as possible. Whether you are fluent or conversational, your voice is welcome! Join us for a brief rehearsal on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral. To participate, please contact the Rev. Liz Kronenberg, Canon Vicar at: lkronenberg@christchurchcathedral.org.
- ❖ **News for Children & Families and Youth** • Stay connected during the summer by signing up for the Cathedral Families and/or Treehouse newsletters to learn about summer offerings like Art Space for All (Sundays at 10 a.m. in Reynolds Hall), Summer Shade (youth activities), and Movable Feast (family, food, and fun in June and July). Childcare runs through the summer as usual 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays.
- ❖ **Summer Shade 2026: The Treehouse Cup** • This summer we're kicking things off with The Treehouse Cup, a series of fun outings across Houston as the city gets ready to host the World Cup. From movie night under the stars to adventure parks, Fan Fest, and a water park day, Summer Shade is all about spending time together and making the most of the summer. Grab a friend and come hang with us this summer. Soccer jerseys welcome! Space may be limited for some events, so be sure to register on our announcements page.
- ❖ **Education for Ministry – Fertile Ground to Grow Your Faith** • On May 31 four parishioners will celebrate their completion of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program: Michael Cruz, Gay Gullede, Nina Johnston, and Ellen Luby. A graduation ceremony will be celebrated during the 11 a.m. service, followed by a reception in the Mellinger Room. Anyone who has ever taken or has interest in learning more about the program is invited. EfM at the Cathedral will resume meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30-9 p.m. starting September 8. This year we will transition to being a Zoom meeting only. For more information on tuition, registration, or about EfM in general contact the mentor: Lucy Wagner, 713-253-4903, lmwagner1219@gmail.com.
- ❖ **Save the Date: Pride Eucharist is June 5** • Kick off the weekend with purpose, community, and a little creative flair. Before we take to the streets, we're gathering to center ourselves in love and prep for the march ahead. Join us at 6 p.m. in Reynolds for Poster Making and a Reception and then at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral for our Pride Eucharist. More info at: christchurchcathedral.org/Pride.