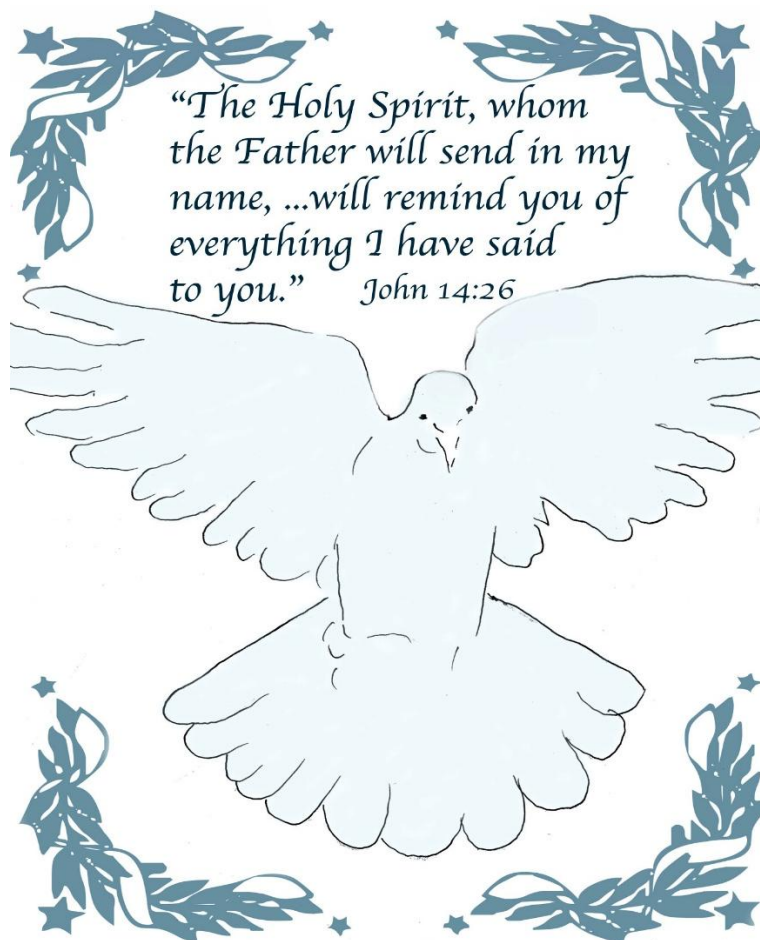


Easter VI



**May 25, 2025
10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity
4238 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
www.holynativitybaltimore.org**

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2 All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

H518 – *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

3 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.

4 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Christ is made the sure foundation, #518 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1856), alt. Music: *Westminster Abbey*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt; desc. James Gillespie (b. 1929). Descant by permission of Church Society, London.

OPENING SENTENCES

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.

GLORIA

L 243

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 67

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
**for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

THE EPISTLE

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H291 – *We Plow the Fields* (v. 1 & 2)

1 We plow the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

2 He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.

Refrain

THE GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H291 – *We Plow the Fields* (v. 3)

3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food:
the gifts we have to offer

are what thy love imparts,
but chiefly thou desirest
our humble thankful hearts.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

We plow the fields, and scatter, #291 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Matthias Claudius (1740-1815); tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878), alt. Music: *Wir Pflugen*, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800).

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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 worshipped 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

Intercessor: Let us pray in union with our risen Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For Donald, our President, Wes, our Governor, and Brandon, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the peace of Christ, his own gift to his apostles, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all who hold authority in this world and in the church, that the Holy Spirit may guide them into the ways of justice, peace, and truth, for the good of all people everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For those whose hearts are troubled, through hunger, fear, poverty, sickness, loneliness, or for whatever reason, that the love of Christ may make its home with them and fill them with all peace. We especially pray for those on our prayer list: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Rashad, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, and Aldwyn, Gilma and Irene. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, that we may love Christ and keep his word, and be made one with each other with Christ in God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the whole creation, men, women, children, plants, animals, and the wonders of the universe, that we may all in our varied ways give praise to the God who made and loves us, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For those who till the earth and those who fish in the waters to bring food to the world, and for all whose hand is open to give bread to the hungry, that all may enjoy the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you have sent your Holy Spirit to teach us and to bring to remembrance all you have done in the power of God. Be known to us, as you have promised, hear our prayers, grant us your peace and love, and give us those things which we need in this life. You live and reign for ever and ever.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Warden

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

2 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost
from dark despair.

H537 – *Christ for the World we Sing*

3 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

4 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with joyful song;
the new-born souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

Christ for the world we sing, #537 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886). Music: *Moscow*, melody Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916 based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1892).

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says
God 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 our thanks and praise.

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

The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,

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

LEVAS 255

**Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days
you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of
the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand
before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**

We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Joseph and Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Jesus, Lamb of God:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

H542 – *Christ is the World's True Light*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings.

Refrain

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky,

H405 – *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
Refrain

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one.

Refrain

4 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

Each little flower that opens, #405 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. Descant, Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Rashad, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus, Shirley, Silma, Aldwyn, William, Deja, Joy, Gilma, Irene, and Michael.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

May 26, 2025	Memorial Day
May 28, 2025	Advisory Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
June 1, 2025	First Sunday Meal Early Education Center Feasibility Presentation
June 8, 2025	Day of Pentecost

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
