



# ST. STEPHEN'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD

*Belonging  
with purpose*

*Our Mission: Embracing and living God's commandment to love our neighbors through worship, stewardship, and service to others.*

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.

### Prelude

### Welcome

*All stand and join in singing Hymn 296*

*Engelberg*

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Alleluia!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ.  
Alleluia!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.  
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.  
Alleluia!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Alleluia! Amen.

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*All join in The 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.**

*At this time, children are invited to follow  
Storytime Leaders down to the Choir Room.*

*The flowers on the altar are given  
to the glory of God and in memory of  
John J Wells*

*Emma S Williams • David Stephenson Williams*

*All sing the Gloria in excelsis S-278*

**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,  
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. Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. 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.**

*All sit for A Reading from the First Letter of John*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came

by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. 1 John 5:1-6

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98** *sung by the choir*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown  
in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

**Musical Meditation** Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

*Now I've heard there was a secret chord  
That David played, and it pleased the Lord  
But you don't really care for music, do you?  
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth  
The minor falls, the major lifts  
The baffled king composing Hallelujah...*

*Your faith was strong but you needed proof  
You saw her bathing on the roof  
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew her  
She tied you to a kitchen chair  
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair  
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah...*

*Well, maybe there's a God above  
As for me all I've ever learned from love  
Is how to shoot somebody who outdrew you  
But it's not a crime that you're here tonight  
It's not some pilgrim who claims to have seen the Light  
No, it's a cold and it's a very broken Hallelujah....*

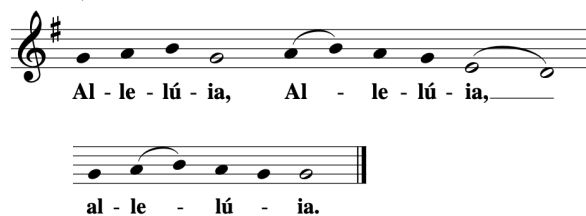
*Well people I've been here before  
I know this room and I've walked this floor  
You see I used to live alone before I knew ya  
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch  
But listen love, love is not some kind of victory march, no  
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah...*

*There was a time you let me know  
What's really going on below  
But now you never show it to me, do you?  
And I remember when I moved in you  
And the holy dove she was moving too  
And every single breath we drew was Hallelujah...*

*Now I've done my best, I know it wasn't much  
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch  
I've told the truth, I didn't come here to London just to fool you  
And even though it all went wrong  
I'll stand right here before the Lord of song  
With nothing, nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah...*

*All stand for the Alleluia Verse*

*Cantor, then All:*



*The Cantor sings a Verse, then all repeat Alleluia.*

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

*John 15:9-17*

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

The Reverend D Littlepage  
Canon for Mission Advocacy, Racial Justice & Reconciliation,  
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

*A moment for reflection follows the sermon.*

### All stand for 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 Peace

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

*People* And also with you.

### Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant* Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

### Offertory Anthem

Simon Lole

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. This is my commandment: that ye love one another, as I have loved you. God is Love, and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. If you keep my commandments, love one another, as I have loved you, then your joy will be complete.

### All stand for the Presentation Hymn

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Book of Common Prayer p. 372*

*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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing

### Sanctus S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry: Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*All remain standing as the Celebrant continues and ends with*

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*All*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues and ends with*

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

*People*

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* Alleluia: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast: Alleluia.

### Fraction Anthem

*Antiphon  
Cantor; then All*

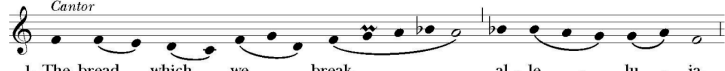


The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus

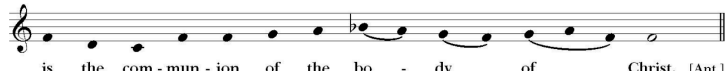


in the break - ing of the bread.

*Cantor*



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

*All join in singing* Communion Hymn



Christ has bro - ken down the wall,  
We're ac - cept - ed as we are,  
Cast a - side your doubts and fears,  
We will tear down the walls,



Christ has bro - ken down the wall;  
we're ac - cept - ed as we are,  
cast a - side your doubts and fears;  
we will tear down eve - ry wall;



let us join our hearts as one;  
through God's love all is re - con - ciled;  
peace and love free - ly of - fered here;  
God has called us one and all;



Christ has bro - ken down the wall.  
we're ac - cept - ed as we are.  
cast a - side your doubts and fears.  
Christ has bro - ken down the wall.

*All stand for the* Prayer After Communion

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All*

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

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.**

*All stand and sing* Hymn 529

*McKee*

- 1 In Christ there is no East or West,  
in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as his child  
is surely kin to me.
- 3 In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in him meet South and North,  
all Christly souls are one in him,  
throughout the whole wide earth.

*Dismissal Response* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Postlude*