



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year A

May 3, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Celebrant	The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
Deacon	The Rev. Vicki Knipp
Family Minister	Lyssa Williford, Director
Vergers	Scott Cummings
Music	Ann Vail, Director of Music
	Nikki Birdsong, Piano
	John Cotten, Guitar
	St. Christopher's Choir

Welcome to St. Christopher's!

We are so happy you're here to celebrate with us today! Whether this is your very first visit or your church home, we are glad to welcome you on this joyful morning as we celebrate the good news: **Christ is risen!**

St. Christopher's is a family-friendly community, and children of all ages are welcome in every worship service. For those who prefer, childcare is available. **Children ages 4-10** are invited to follow the cross during the Gloria and will process to the Godly Play room for a lectionary based mini service and return at the Peace. Quiet Bags filled with activities for our youngest visitors during the service are available in the narthex (lobby). We kindly ask you return the bag for others to enjoy.

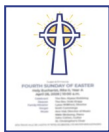
At Holy Communion, **all are invited to come forward.** If you would like to receive the bread, please hold out your hands. If you would prefer a blessing, simply **cross your arms over your chest**, and the priest will offer a blessing.

After the service, the celebration continues! Please stay and join us for a time of **fellowship.**

We'd love to stay in touch! If you're visiting today, we invite you to connect with us in whatever way is easiest for you. **Scan the QR code, email us, send a text, or fill out a Connect Card in the pew.** We'd be delighted to welcome you, answer any questions, and help you learn more about our church community.

If you'd simply like to know what's happening without sharing all of your contact information, just **scan the QR code to receive our weekly e-newsletter.**

Thank you for spending this morning with us. We hope you feel at home here and leave filled with Easter joy!



Large print bulletins available in the narthex (lobby).

Digital bulletins available on the home page @ stchristophersaustin.org



network | **St. Christopher's**

password | **StChristophers8724**

Sunday | 9a Nursery | 9a Adult Form. | 10a Children's Form. | 10a Holy Eucharist, Rite II | 11a Fellowship

Monday | 9a Morning Prayer **Wednesday** | noon House of Prayer

Office | Mon-Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm | 512.288.0128 | office@stchrisatx.org | rector@stchrisatx.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

As the Prelude begins we invite you to you to finish conversations and find a place in the nave to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Nikki Birdsong, piano

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 182

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

4 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.

5 Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

3 Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior with the Father reigns.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 355

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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.

During the singing of the Gloria the children will follow the cross and return at the Peace.

GLORIA



Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

He is risen, He is risen, Alleluia!

The Celebrant says to the people.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

COLLECT FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BCP, p. 224

See insert (Contemporary)

(Please be seated for the lessons)

FIRST LESSON:

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

See insert

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The response appointed for today is from Psalm 31, please read responsively by whole verse.

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

**15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me

**Glory to the Father, and to the | Son, and to the Holy | Spirit,*
as it was in the beginning, is | now, and will be forever. A | men.**

EPISTLE:

1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

See insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hymnal 1982, # 205

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat 3 times

GOSPEL:

John 14:1-14

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

See insert

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hymnal 1982, # 205

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat 3 times

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing, Rector

(Please stand as you are able)

NICENE CREED

BCP, p 358

The Deacon says,

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, let us proclaim our faith in the 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.

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Steadfast God, you have never abandoned your promise to be with your people, be present to us now and hear us as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Imbue your church with the courage of Stephen, that it may hold steadfast to Christ and uphold always your command to love one another.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion, and for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury.

We pray for our church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Hector, and Brian, our bishops, for St. Mark's, Houston, Trinity, Baytown, Trinity, Houston, and for our whole diocese.

We pray for our parish, for Alyssa our priest; Vicki our deacon, Lyssa, our family minister, Casey and Christina, our seminarians, and all our leaders and ministers

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant wisdom to those in authority in our lives that they may not be seduced by the expedient or the popular, but strive always to lead us towards true safety, seeking the welfare of all people.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Embolden us to share our faith with confidence through our actions and choices, and especially in our mercy to those in need.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen and sustain us as we forge new ways of life to contend with the conflicts of the world and climate change and help us to hold onto the power of your promises even and especially when we feel hopeless.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let your healing presence be known to all who suffer from any trouble; bring wholeness to all that is broken in our lives and in our world.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant peace to the dead and dying, comfort to those who mourn or grieve; let the light of your love dispel the darkness in our hearts.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

Most glorious God, you have strengthened and sustained your people since first you called Abram to follow you. Lift us up, we pray, and help us to be the people we were created to be that we might fulfill your dream for our human family. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated for the announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

See insert

We invite our visitors to fill out a Connect Card located in the pew rack in front of you or text STCHRISATX to 833-488-4578 to learn more about St. Christopher's events and ministries.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sydney Carter

1 I danced in the morning
when the earth was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they
wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the Dance went on.
[Refrain]

3 I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.
[Refrain]

4 I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil
on your back;
they buried my body
and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance and I still go on.
[Refrain]

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life, that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
[Refrain]

(Please stand as you are able)

DOXOLOGY

4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Hymnal 1982, # 380
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP, p. 361

(Please remain standing.)

SURSUM CORDA

Hymnal 1982, # S 120

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

Celebrant
The Lord be with you. **People**
And al - so 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.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface

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

Hymnal 1982, # S 130

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: ...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People say together.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, ...

... Almighty Father, now and for ever.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD


The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # S 164



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

INVITATION

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.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available. If you would prefer you may receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Please ask an usher if you need communion brought to you.

(Please sit or kneel as you prefer after receiving Holy Communion)

Communion Hymn

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions
on each face,
And I know they feel the presence
of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
filling us with your love.
And for these blessings we
lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that
we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Communion Hymn

1 O how He loves you and me.
O how He loves you and me;
He gave His life, what more could He give;
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
O how He loves you and me.

Communion Praise Song

1 Do Lord, O do Lord,
Do remember me,
O Do Lord remember me.
Do Lord, O do Lord,
Do remember me,
O Do Lord remember me.
O Do Lord remember me.

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Lift Every Voice, # 120

2 There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness,
and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."
[Refrain]

3 If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound,
and cannot enter in,
you can make it right if you will yield;
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.
[Refrain]

Lift Every Voice, # 35

2 Jesus to Calvary did go,
His love for the worlds to show;
What He did there brought
hope from despair;
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
O how He loves you and me.

African-American Spiritual

2 I've got a home in glory-land
that out-shines the sun
I've got a home in glory-land
that out-shines the sun
I've got a home in glory-land
that out-shines the sun
Look a Way beyond the blue

Repeat verse 1

BCP, p. 366

EASTER 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 for ever. **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 God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 536

1 We praise thee, O God,
For the son of thy love,
For Jesus who died
And is now gone above.

Refrain

Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
Hallelujah! Amen,
Hallelujah! Thine the glory,
Revive us again.

2 We praise thee, O God,
For thy spirit of light,
Who has shown us our Savior,
And scattered our night.
[Refrain]

3 All glory and praise
To the lamb that was slain,
Who has borne all our sins
And has cleansed ev'ry stain.
[Refrain]

4 Revive us again,
Fill each heart with thy love,
May each soul be rekindled
With fire from above.
[Refrain]

DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Nikki Birdsong, piano

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

*Please know that your participation
with us has been a blessing.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your help is needed in keeping our Prayer List current.

Please send any updates for the Prayer List to the office at
office@stchrisatx.org

For Healing, Comfort and Peace: Sally, Mike, Elizabeth, Bob, George, Elena, Paula, Bobby, Mary, Caroline, Alison, Ward, Mary, MJ, Erin, Pam, Joe, Cheryl, Ray, Michael, Nick, Samuel, Nicholas, Jean, Nate, Emily, Shannon, Winn, Diana, June, Beth, Andy, Kenyon, Steve, Jean, Aly, Vanessa, Ann, Steve's family, Renee, Eric's family

For those in Service to Our Country: Daniel, Cale, Joyce, Karim

For Expectant Mothers: Kaitlyn, Catherine, Esther

For the Departed: Steve, Eric

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the Connection or scan the QR for ministry
schedules and additional announcements.

Your Voice Matters: Formation & Ministry Survey

We invite you to answer just 5 questions to help us better understand your interests, experiences, and hopes for Christian formation and ministry in our congregation.

Vestry Minutes

Approved minutes will be posted on the website with a link in the Connection.

Mother's Day | Sun, May 10

We'd like to interview folks about one thing they've admired in their mother. Rev. Alyssa or Marty will be available to record a 1-2 minute video for you today if you'd like to participate, or you may send a short video to office@stchrisatx.org by May 5th.

Migration with Dignity Prayer Vigil | Wed, May 13 @ 6:30p

Interfaith prayer vigil for refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants at St. David's (301 E 8th). Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items. Parking is free.



Mean Girls Jr, Mon, May 18 @ 9a

Smalls Middle School Junior Varsity Theater will present Mean Girls Jr with our own Lily Horner. \$5 cash donation. Morning Prayer will be held there.

Day of Pentecost | Sun, May 24th

Wear red as we celebrate the birthday of the church. We are also looking for folks to read the Pentecost story in other languages (contact the office).

May Gathering @ Salt Lick BBQ | Fri, May 29 @ 5:30p

Let's meet at the Salt Lick (18300 RM 1826, Driftwood, TX 78619) for our annual barbeque together, before summer pulls us apart. Join us at 5:30p and it can be easier to bring cash.

St Christopher's 50th Anniversary | Sun, Jul 5

After the service there will be BBQ and you are invited to bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert (please let us know). Please join us even if you don't bring a dish. There will be music, games, activities, and fun for the whole family. Many more details to come.

Ways to support the ministry of St. Christopher's

Support the life and ministry of St. Christopher's. Contact the office for more information.

St. Christopher's clergy and staff will never ask for an urgent favor, purchase of gift cards, or other financial items, or your personal info via email or text. Please delete these without responding.



In Person



Automatic Giving



Online Banking



Online



Mobile



Text

Please remember to enter **pledge** on the memo line and choose **Operating Pledge** online.

Serving in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte

Avery

Altar Guild

Casey/Pat and Karen

Bell Ringer

Gabbi

Epistoler

Lily

Eucharist Minister

Joyce

Fellowship

Birthday/Anniversary

Flowers

Isabel

Godly Play

Linda and Cathy

Lector

Elizabeth M

Nursery

Athena

Ushers

Dan and Estella

Vestry of the Day

Alicia and Heidi

I am the way,
the truth,
and the life.

