



St. John's Episcopal Church The Third Sunday of Easter

April 14th, 2024
10am

Prelude

Opening Hymn #199 ~ *Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain*

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness:
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal:
but today amidst thine own thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our redeemer -
People: **Who was anointed by the spirit of God to bring good news to the poor.**
Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our redeemer -
People: **Who was crucified by the keepers of order for heeding the summons of God.**
Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our redeemer -
People: **Who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit for bringing the reign of God to earth.**
All: **Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Christ, our Redeemer!**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

The Gloria

1982 Hymnal S 280

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.

The Collect

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

[Acts 3:12-19](#)

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The Psalm

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 **"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"**
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 **Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 **Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.**
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 **I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia (3x)**

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us, make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia (3x)**

The Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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.

Prayers of the People

God has made the One who was rejected the cornerstone of a new community. In the name of Christ Jesus, let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Holy One, as the risen Christ opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures and gave them power through the Holy Spirit to walk boldly in the world, open your people today to the healing, wisdom, and faith given in your Word;
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Prince of Peace, as Christ Jesus showed his wounded hands and feet to the terrified apostles, reveal to your church, and people of prayer in every faith; the wounds of our neighbors, the fears of individuals and families, and the avenue toward healing;
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Author of life, we beg for peace among nations, peace throughout communities, and peace within families. Guide their leaders, voters, legislatures, parliaments, judges, and juries. Teach diplomacy and let our ways be formed so that all creatures, plants, and people may have plenty;
hear us, O God, your mercy is great.

Light in our darkness; let your brightness burn in places shrouded in violence. Reveal the pains that are hidden in secret. Unveil the needs of our own hearts so that we may know the power of vulnerability. Your Son was raised to life even from the grave. Show us again that life comes from death;

hear us, **O God, your mercy is great.**

Healer of every ill, we pray for all who are in need, particularly Elin Babin, David Bell, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Don DiGiacomo, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Rachel Lesch, Robert Long, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Lori, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Kathy Pothier, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Dom Tello, Jill Vaccaro and Family, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Walter, Baby Viviana, and Rachel;

hear us, **O God, your mercy is great.**

We pray for refugees of war and all who are displaced by storms, for rescue workers and medical teams, for those whose bones are weary, for those who show us the power of community to give hope to the frightened, and for all who have asked for our prayers;

hear us, **O God, your mercy is great.**

We remember departed loved ones and friends, praying they have been received into your loving, eternal care, pour out your blessing;

hear us, **O God, your mercy is great.**

You command us to bring to you our deepest desires, O God, and we pray now for those persons and concerns that lie on our hearts, spoken aloud or in silence; *(a time of silence is kept)*

hear us, **O God, your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend into your care all for whom we pray, and our own lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us know bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and gifts.

Offertory Anthem

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

#S 130 ~ *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Officiant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S 155 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

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

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table, and everyone is welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Anthem

Post-communion Prayer

Author of life divine, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Officiant Let us pray.

People 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 Lord bless you and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and give you what is needed for each new day.

Closing Hymn #210 ~ *The Day of Resurrection*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Announcements

Coffee Hour

Volunteers are needed for coffee hour during May and June; if you are able to lend a hand, please see the sign-up sheet in Ashworth Hall. Thank you!!

April 21st & 28th Clergy

While Rev. John is away on vacation, The Rev. Bob Davidson returns to officiate – be sure to offer him a warm St. John’s welcome next week!

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Denise Beneteau, Worship Leader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

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