



St. John's Episcopal Church
Easter Sunday

March 31st, 2024

10am

Prelude

Opening Hymn

1982 Hymnal #207 ~ *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Leader: God has burst the bonds of sorrow. Life has crushed the most horrible death.

People: **Our hearts shall swell with cries of gladness; our silent tongues, rejoice**

Leader: The daughters of God are lifted up; the sons of God are risen!

People: **Our spirits shall dwell in heaven's hope! Our God is always with us!**

Leader: The children of God are Christ's sisters and brothers; you have witnessed the glory of God!

All: **God has revealed to us the way, truth, and the life! Sing, glad hearts, before
Glory's throne!**

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, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament

[Isaiah 25:6-9](#)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

2 **Let Israel now proclaim, ***
"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

15 **There is a sound of exultation and victory ***
in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

17 **I shall not die, but live, ***
and declare the works of the LORD.

18 The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness; ***
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the LORD.

20 "This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter."

21 **I will give thanks to you, for you answered me ***
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 **This is the LORD's doing, ***
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Response: Alleluia (6x)

Give Thanks to the Lord, for he is good, For his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

The right hand of the Lord has struck with power, The right hand of the Lord is exalted.
I shall not die but live. And declare the works of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected as become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done, It is wonderful in our eyes.

The Second Reading
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you-unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them-though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

Christ our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed; Let us then feast with joy in Lord

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

The Gospel
Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and

said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With joy, we pray for all Christian assemblies united this morning at the empty tomb. Help us see you, O God, in those we do not expect to encounter and remove all fear from our hearts.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With gratitude, we give you thanks for our newly baptized sisters and brothers in every land. Guide them and keep them, open their eyes again and again to your blessings.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With humility, we pray for this planet, our home. Heal what we have scarred and broken; renew the face of the Earth from north to south, from east to west so that your creation may speak to us of your goodness.
God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope and love, we pray for the nations of the world, especially those places overwhelmed by war and conflict; Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine. By the light of the resurrection, destroy the shroud that is cast over all who live under dictatorship, in the clutches of propagandists, and in ignorance. Bless the peacemakers who work to bring justice to their country, city, village, and household. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With compassion, wipe away the tears of all who weep. Give us the spiritual tools we need to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort those who are in any trouble. Send your angels to watch over the vulnerable and sick. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now the prayers of this assembly spoken aloud or in silence. We remember especially: 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, Margaret Parziale, Kathy Pothier, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Dom Tello, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Dave LeBaron, Walter, Baby Viviana, and Rachel. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With fondness, we remember those who saw our risen Lord and witnessed to his resurrection so that we might have faith. May their words and deeds inspire us to sing our "Alleluia!" again and again. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Passing from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life, we commend to you, gracious and ever-living God, for all whom we pray. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

With compassion for our needs, the Risen One stands beside us, calling our names. Let us, with that same mercy, bring forth tithes and offerings to relieve the suffering of this world and to proclaim far and wide the good news of resurrection life.

Offertory Anthem

Doxology

1982 Hymnal #380 vs. 3 only

**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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Officiant proceeds

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:

Minister and People

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

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen 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

Now may the truth of the empty tomb, the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn #432 ~ *O Praise Ye the Lord*

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
And worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song,
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Participants in this Service:

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

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