



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 ~ 10am

Prelude

Entrance Hymn #7 ~ *Christ whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Leader: Come now, says the Lord, let us reason together,

People: That our sins, though they be like scarlet, may be white as snow.

Leader: Let us give ear to the teaching of our God,

People: That we may be shaped into vessels of mercy.

Leader: Lord, you are the potter, and we are the clay,

People: Mold us and make us after your will, while we are waiting, yielded and still.

All: O Spirit who makes us the image of God, help us become the saviors of the helpless the Pillars of the weak, the finders of the forsaken!

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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

[Acts 4:5-12](#)

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

` the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Psalm (Let us read it responsively)

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures ***
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ***
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Epistle

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Hymn #182 ~ *Christ is Alive* (verses 1-3)

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

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

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

The Gospel

John 10:11-18

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Sermon

The Rev. Bob Davidson

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, Form III

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishops Alan and Carol, our priest Bob, the wardens, vestry and delegates. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Joe, our president, and Maura, our governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest; we pray especially for John & Mary Nelson, Frank & Mildred Beckford, Jane Brierly, and members of the Tarr Family: Richard, Dorothy, and Marilyn Tarr Schiappa;
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and for others; in particular, those named on our weekly prayer list: Elin Babin, David Bell, Ron, Paul Brophy, Maureen Burke, Norma Cahill, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, 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.

Silence

Minister and People

**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.**

Officiant God is merciful and kind; though our sins are like scarlet, they become like snow.
Be at peace for your sins are washed clean by the goodness of God.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus sends his disciples into the world to bless all by his grace. With God's love, in the Holy Spirit, let us make this our offering to God.

The Holy Communion

Choral 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.

Father, receive all we offer you this day, and grant that in this Eucharist we may be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this in the name of 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

**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

Post-communion Prayer

Eternal God, grant to your church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this Eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

As once the spirit of God dwelled bodily in Jesus of Nazareth, so now the spirit of God dwells in us, the body of Christ. Being therefore members of one another, let us care for one another: If any of us suffer, let all suffer together; if any of us rejoice, let all rejoice together.

Recessional Hymn #376 ~ *Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Announcements/Reminders

Welcome back, Rev. Bob!

We are happy The Rev. Bob Davidson has returned to celebrate worship while Rev. John is away - be sure to say hello!

The lobster roll order deadline is **Tuesday, April 30th** - please contact the office by email or phone. Each roll is \$15 and includes condiments, a bag of chips, and a homemade brownie. Pay at pick-up on **Friday, May 3rd from 7am - Noon** (check or cash). Thank you for your support!

Our *Spring Plant Sale* is **Saturday, May 11th from 9am - 1:30pm**. We will offer a colorful variety of potted and hanging plants, grown by Kane's Flower World. Visit St. John's website for pricing and ordering details, or contact Jeanne Seaboyer (or the parish office).

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Bob Davidson, Presiding Priest
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
John Rogalski, Worship Leader & Colleen Marcotte, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906

Tel: 781-233-1242 Email: StJohnsSaugus@Gmail.com

Website: StJohnsSaugus.org