



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30th, 2023
10am

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. ~ *John 10:14*

Prelude

Opening Hymn #179 ~ *Welcome, Happy Morning* (verses 1-3 & 6)

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say:
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!
Lo! the dead is living, God forevermore!
Him their true Creator, all his works adore!

Refrain:

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say.

Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
all fresh gifts returned with her returning King:
bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now.

Refrain

Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,
hours and passing moments praise thee in their flight.
Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea,
Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee.

Refrain

Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen raise to life again;
show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
bring again our daylight: day returns with thee!

Refrain

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever

Celebrant: The grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed.

Let us pray

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom 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.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and true heart.

People: Merciful God, our maker, and our judge, we have sinned against you,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves; We repent and are sorry for all our
sins. Father forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant: Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to Him in faith.
pardon you and set you free from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to God's 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 First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Psalm

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 New Testament

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel Hymn #645 ~ *The King of Love, my Shepherd is* (verses 1-3 & 6)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

The Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

In this season of Easter rejoicing, let us offer our prayers and thanksgiving's saying, O risen Christ, Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the goodness of the earth, that it may flourish with flowing waters, verdant pastures, and paths that lead us to protect and care for your creation. O risen Christ,
Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the peace and welfare of the world, that all our tables of work and worship promote the understanding and dignity that transform enemies into friends. O risen Christ,
Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For all who suffer with sickness (especially those we remember this day...), and for those in any need, or danger, that all their afflictions and fears are met with healing and the comforting presence of your voice. O risen Christ,
Open our eyes to your mercy and the world.

For the blessings we receive and share, that we may live a life of ceaseless praise for the salvation that as ours through you. O risen Christ,
Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For the saints and light that you will wipe away every tear from their eyes as they dwell with you eternally. O risen Christ,
Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

For departed loved ones and friends, especially Departed Members of the Adult Fellowship, Richard Tarr, Dorothy Tarr, and Marilyn Tarr Schiappa, that they have been received into your heavenly kingdom. O risen Christ,

Open our eyes to your mercy in the world.

Our Prayer List this week: Elin Babin, David Bell, Paul Brophy, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Don DiGiacomo, Janet Dunton, Beth (Manoogian) DuPlessie, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne Felci, Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Carolyn Hashem, Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Rick LeClair, Rachel Lesch, Robert Long, Melissa McSheffery, Janet Macrina, Matt, Lori M., Mary & Dante, Trudy Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, William Muise, Sara Murray, Sandy St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Julie Stewart, Meghan Tapley, Walter, and Rachel.

Leader Are there others?

Holy God, you are our hope and our strength our light and our sovereign, our shepherd and our savior. With all the saints in heaven and on earth, we praise your holy name and entrust every care to you; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
People **Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Blessed are you Lord God our Father, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your reign.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honor be yours always and everywhere, Mighty Creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your son our savior, Jesus Christ, Who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary, and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross He offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant and exalted him to glory.

By his victory over death the reign of sin is ended, a new day dawned, a broken world is restored, and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name for ever praising you and singing.

**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.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honor and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Celebrant As this broken bread was many grains which have been gathered together and made one bread.

People So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus bearer of our Sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

The Celebrant 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.

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

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.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Anthem

Post-communion Prayer

The Celebrant says the following prayer:

Father Almighty, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for-ever.

Celebrant 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

Closing Hymn #182 ~ *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing*

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.

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.

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

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

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.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Announcements

Lobster Roll Sale Update

A big high-five to the 'Lobster Roll Crew', who mailed, packaged, delivered, and did all the other not-so-visible but necessary tasks to make the sale a success. And many thanks to those who purchased them - the final count was nearly 260 rolls. **THANK YOU!!**

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Spring ~ Mother's Day Plant Sale

Pick up on Friday, May 12th ~ 3 - 5pm and Saturday, May 13th ~ 9am - 2pm

Order deadline: Monday, May 8th ~ Email or phone the parish office and pay at pick-up by cash or **check** (made payable to St. John's). *Thank you for your support!*

10" Hanging Planters \$30.00 each:

Red or pink Geraniums
Red, pink, or white New Guinea Impatiens

4" Individual Pots - \$7.00 each:

Pink, Red, yellow, or orange Begonias
Red, pink, or light pink Geraniums
White or red New Guinea Impatiens
Yellow or purple Dahlias

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Prayer List

Again, we appreciate your help in keeping our weekly prayer list current – please inform the office of any additions or changes. Thank you.

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Sandy St. Clair, Worship Leader & Julia Aston, L.E.M.

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