



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

April 7th, 2024
10am

Prelude

Opening Hymn #174 ~ *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine gives his sacred Blood for wine,
gives his Body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the Paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from on high, hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened paradise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy, these alone do sin destroy.
From sin's power do thou set free soul's newborn, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:
risen Lord, all praise to thee with the Spirit ever be.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Psalm

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 **It is like fine oil upon the head ***
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 **It is like the dew of Hermon ***
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

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

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me says the Lord,
blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe*

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

The Gospel

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Living God, giver of life, hear us we pray, saying, Pour out your blessing, O Lord; send us your Spirit of peace.

We pray for the church. Let your church be a living sign of the wondrous healing of Christ, sharing the gift of forgiveness and the gospel of reconciliation. Pour out your blessing, O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for the earth...Help us to see the scars of death that mark your good creation, and to seek the blessing of life that you offer to all creatures.

Pour out your blessing,

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for all nations, particularly Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and Haiti...Show us how good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity, and anoint us with your wisdom so that we may seek the ways of life. Pour out your blessing,

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for this community of St. John's Church. Give us a vision of the common good: not clinging to our own possessions but seeking the fullness of life for all as a testimony to Christ's resurrection. Pour out your blessing,

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

We pray for loved ones, particularly for those in need, physically or otherwise: 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.

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

Be near to those who walk in darkness and lead us all into Christ's light so that our fellowship may be true and our joy may be complete. Pour out your blessing,

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

We remember those we have known and loved but see no longer; or departed loved ones and friends, we pray they have been received into your loving, eternal care, especially Dave LeBaron, Scott Jonathan Ralph, Marcus & Nancy Ralph, James & Doris Smith, and Margaret L. Hurlll.

Pour out your blessing,

O Lord; **send us your Spirit of peace.**

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

Remember the first believers-who shared one heart and soul, held their possessions in common, and distributed them to all in need. In the same spirit, let us present our offerings at the feet of the risen Christ.

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 #180 ~ *He is Risen, He is Risen!*

He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.

Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted, with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed; Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore - sin and pain can vex no more.

Come, with high and holy hymning, hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east, symbol of our Easter feast.

He is risen, he is risen! He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison, risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.

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
Sandy Mears, Worship Leader ~ Janice Webber, L.E.M.

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