

ST. JAMES'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024 10:30 am

Welcome to St. James's!

We're glad that you have joined us today to enjoy the blessings of worship and to participate with us in God's mission in the world of justice and love.

However you come to this place, exhausted or energized by life, comfortable with church or not, gay or straight, trans, nonbinary, cisfemale or cismale; of color or white, neurodivergent or neurotypical, persons with or without disabilities, younger or older! Whoever you are,

know the people of St. James's strive to love and welcome you as God does, unconditionally and completely just as you are!

10:30 am The Second Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Acolytes Marian King, Jonte Folkes

Eucharistic Ministers Alvin Lindo, Laverne Agard-Lynch

Minister of Music Patrick Michaels

Preacher & PresiderThe Rev. Matthew StewartReadersLinda Luikel, Susan Rice

Ushers Alan Aukeman Videographer Steve Clark Welcomer Sylvia Weston

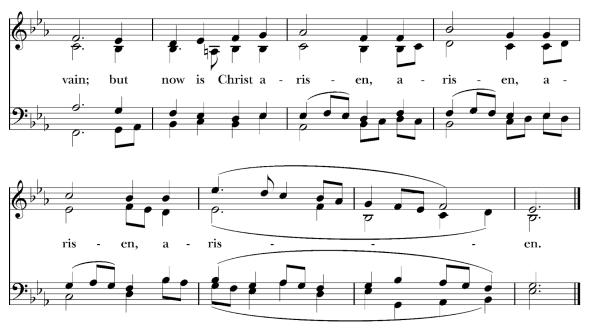
The Word of God

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Tolling of the Bell





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Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

All then pray

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



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Patrick Michaels, ©2001. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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 First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Linda Luikel

A reading from the Book of Acts.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.

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

The Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

Linda Luikel

A reading from the First Book of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Hallelujah, Amen

Patrick Michaels



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The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, O Christ.

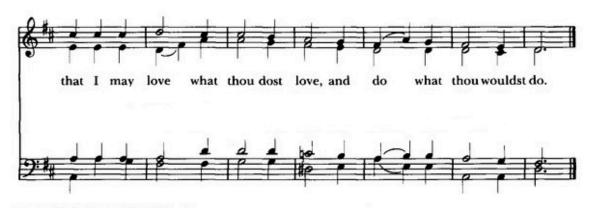
Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Stewart

Sermon Hymn: Breath on me, Breath of God

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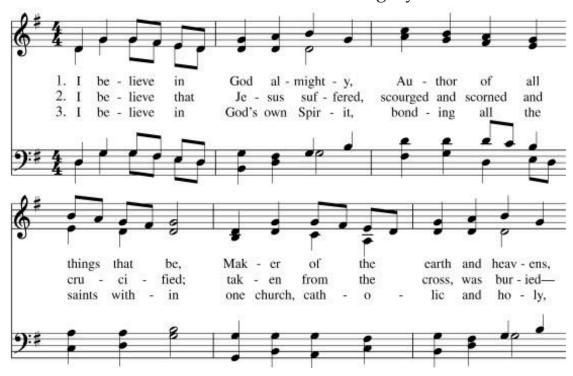


Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt. Music: Nova Vita, Lister R. Peace (1885-1969)

SM

Affirmation of Faith: I believe in God almighty

WLP 769





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The Prayers of the People

Susan Rice

We come with anticipation on this first day of the week to become witnesses, sharing in the resurrection life of Jesus, as we pray: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Eternal One, you have filled your Church with new life and empowered us through the conquering love of Jesus: Raise us with your Spirit that we may live in the power of Christ's resurrection to be empowered to walk through these days with faith and to bring life and light to all the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The right hand of the Most High has triumphed over evil and death, bringing new hope and peace to all the world: Speak your living truth unto everyone who leads and holds authority among the nations, that they may be agents of life that all war and violence might cease.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Apostle Peter has taught us, that you show no partiality, O God, but you accept all who live reverently and do right: Let your peace extend to every person, that the power of war, violence, racism, transphobia, and all injustice may be banished, and all people may live as beloved children of the divine.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the resurrection of Christ Jesus, the promise of redemption for the whole creation is offered: Let that renewal extend to our planet, that humanity might change its ways to save the earth.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ the wounded healer has overcome all that can threaten us. Let his resurrection power bring healing and hope to all those for whom we pray at this time.

(You are invited at this time to pray for those in need of healing.)

Give thanks to God who is good, whose mercy endures for ever. We offer our grateful gladness this Easter Sunday.

(You are invited at this time to offer prayers of thanksgiving.)

Christ has died and is risen, bringing life and immortality to light. We remember those who have died. May they live in him and share in the joy of Easter.

(You are invited at this time to pray for those who have died.)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Presider then says

Gracious, eternal, and loving God, you have anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and raised him from death on the cross into resurrection life: Feed us with his life that we may be his witnesses, sharing in the Spirit's work of reconciliation and justice, through the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of God be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Celebrations

The people are now invited to come forward to share announcements, birthday and anniversary blessing requests, or prayer requests. The community's prayer is then gathered as they sing together:

May God bless you; May God keep you; May God's love be with you; May God grant you peace and wisdom; May God ever be with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

At this time our gifts and offerings will be collected.

Offertory Anthem: As Tender as a Mother Hen

Text: Mel Bringle

Music: Patrick Michaels

H 184 v. 1



Words: Michael Weisse (1480-1534); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Christ ist erstanden, melody from Geistliche Lieder, 1533

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

(Adapted from a prayer from St. Gregory of Nyssa San Francisco)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider says

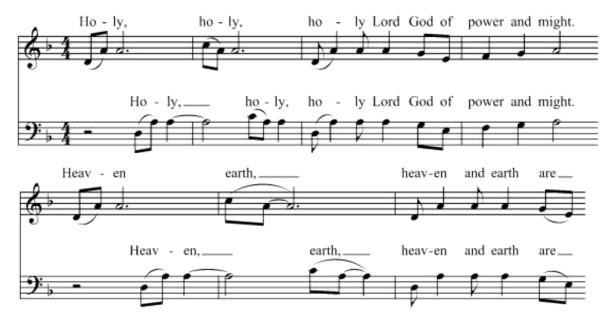
It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God our Creator and Lover. You make all things and call them good. You love us into being. You form us in your image.

And you breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away and our love fails, your love remains steadfast. You deliver us from captivity and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey. You set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

Sanctus MHSO 37





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Presider

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By his baptism of suffering and death you give your church birth into a living hope. Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us, by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom. We who were no people are now your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night when he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Then, on the third day you raised him from the dead and revealed him to the women who came to the tomb to care for his body. On that day he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread. And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, and we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world, until all feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **AMENI.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Lord's Prayer (Zambian)

(Soloists sing the words in italics. The congregation joins in unitalicized language.)

Hear our plea, dear Father we pray; shower upon us your heav'nly grace that we may be your people Glorifying you.

Lord, our Father, in heaven abiding, may your name always be hallowed by us. Your will is righteous and ever consistent, in heaven and also on earth.

Give us this day what we really have need of. Please forgive us the sins we've committed. Help us forgive all the sins of our neighbor as you have forgiven us ours.

Far from temptation we ask you to lead us. Save us also from all that is evil. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory at this time and world without end.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

Yours is glory excelling. Now and forever. (Repeat line three times) Forever and ever. Amen.

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The Breaking of the Bread (Silence is kept)

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover





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Music: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Oxford University Press; desc. Alec Wyton (b. 1921),

C Paraclete Press

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The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Presider

Administration of Communion

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion when directed by an usher.

Those that wish a blessing or a gluten-free, allergen-free wafer are welcome to ask for that.

All are welcome and encouraged to receive Communion from God's table.

Communion Anthem: We Will Lay Our Burden Down The Greenleaf Choir

John Bell

Communion Hymn: He Rises from the Grave



Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

People Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with the spiritual food that is the Risen One,

Jesus Christ. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and

continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Presider

May the peace of the Risen Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May Christ guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May Christ bring you home rejoicing, at the wonders he has shown you.

May Christ bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,

be with you, now and always. Amen.



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Dismissal

Presider With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

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Interested in speaking to a priest or asking for prayers? Email Rev. Matt at matt@stjamescambridge.org

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