

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2021, 10 AM

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO OUR EUCHARIST SERVICE!

The entire service is printed below;
you'll need no books or other materials to follow along.

The Priest or Leader will say the items in regular type.
You are invited to say aloud the items printed in boldface.

PRELUDE

A soloist will sing all hymns and music during the service this morning.
Please refrain from singing if you are joining us in person.

OPENING HYMN

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THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Presider: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GLORIA

**All: 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 OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: 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.

All: Amen.

The People are seated for the lessons.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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.”

At the conclusion of the reading,

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

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.

At the conclusion of the reading,
Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

A soloist will sing all hymns and music during the service this morning.
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SEQUENCE HYMN

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The People stand as they are able for the Gospel,

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 10:11-18

The Gospler introduces the Gospel and the people respond,

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

At the conclusion of the Gospel,
Presider: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

At the invitation of the preacher, the People are seated.

THE HOMILY

THE REV. JERRY LASLEY

All stand as they are able,

THE NICENE CREED

**All: 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People stand as they are able during the prayers. The Leader and People pray responsively.

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;

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;

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.

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 those of others.

The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

The Priest adds a concluding Collect.

Priest: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The People remain standing. The Celebrant faces them,

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Priest: 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.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Priest: 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.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Priest: 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.

**People: By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Priest: 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:

**All: 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.**

Priest: 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,

**People: We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Priest: 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.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to share in this sacred meal. This offering of the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is for you, a precious child of God.

At this time, if you are joining us in-person, please carefully form a single line in the middle aisle beginning with the front rows and working back as space allows. Please make sure to stay at least six feet away from anyone not in your household and keep your mask on.

The Priest will distribute Communion wafers. Please keep your mask on as you approach then process to the left or right depending on where you are sitting. Please wait until you are far from the Priest and others before carefully removing your masks to partake of Communion. Please replace your mask as quickly as you are able.

All stand as they are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. 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.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the People, and the People respond,

People: Amen.

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CLOSING HYMN

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THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The Right Reverend Gladstone Adams, Assisting Bishop

The Reverend Jerry Lasley, Rector

The Reverend Canon Michael P. Spencer, Priest Associate

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr, Priest in Residence | The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie, Assistant Emeritus

Nada Radakovich, Director of Music | Elizabeth Sailus, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Greg Hassold, Parish Organist | Joel Stoeklin, Sexton

THE 2020 VESTRY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

Jane Brewer, 2022 Senior Warden (seniorwarden@stcgb.org)

Steve Huber, 2024 Junior Warden (juniorwarden@stcgb.org)

Kay Van Natta, 2023 Clerk (clerk@stcgb.org)

Bobbie Walton Treasurer (treasurer@stcgb.org)

Frank Burger, 2023 (frank@stcgb.org)

Dawn Rutherford, 2022 (dawn@stcgb.org)

Ken Duck, 2023 (ken@stcgb.org)

Rebecca Stermer, 2022 (rebecca@stcgb.org)

Flo Gjerstad, 2024 (flo@stcgb.org)

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Weekly Worship:

Sundays 10 am on Facebook & In-Person

Thursdays 5:30 pm on Facebook