



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# Easter Day

April 4, 2021

## The Holy Eucharist

**Prelude**

Toccata in F Major

Buxtehude

**Entrance Anthem**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Christ Our Passover: *Pascha Nostrum* (recited by all)**

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; \***

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

**Not with old leaven,**

**neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, \***

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; \***

**death hath no more dominion over him.**

**For in that he died, he died unto sin once; \***

**but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.**

**Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, \***

**but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ is risen from the dead, \***

**and become the first fruits of them that slept.**

**For since by man came death, \***

**by man came also the resurrection of the dead.**

**For as in Adam all die, \***

**even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### **The First Lesson Acts 10:34-43**

*Lector* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now proclaim, \***  
**"His mercy endures for ever."**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **There is a sound of exultation and victory \***  
**in the tents of the righteous:**

- <sup>16</sup> "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- <sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live, \***  
**and declare the works of the LORD.**
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness; \***  
**I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup> "This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."
- <sup>21</sup> **I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \***  
**and have become my salvation.**
- <sup>22</sup> The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> **This is the LORD's doing, \***  
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- <sup>24</sup> On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

### **The Epistle I Corinthians 15: 19-26**

*Lector* A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Anthem** *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today-He Is Alive* Children's Chorus

### **The Holy Gospel Mark 16:1-8**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

### **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

*The Celebrant may first address the people in these or similar words, all standing*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

*Celebrant* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and  
renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**People** ***I do.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

**People** ***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People** ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.***

***He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* ***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.***

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* ***I will, with God's help.***

*The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows*

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*People* ***Amen.***

## **The Prayers of the People**

Form III

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, especially St. Christopher's, Havelock, and Episcopal Campus Ministries in this week's Diocesan Cycle of Prayer;

***That we all may be one.***

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

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially,

***Ashley Burnett, Jeanine Wilson, Al Coward, Randy Tyler, Ben Procter, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacascel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Marian Watts, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, David Dunn, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, Will Copeland, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Thomas Roach, Stan Johnson, Mary Chappell, and others known to us***

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant says a concluding collect.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*(Please stay in place and share from a distance.)*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory Anthem**

*At The Lamb's High Feast*

Salzburg

*(Please place your offering in a designated basket as you depart. During the anthem, the altar will be prepared for the Holy Communion.)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### *Eucharistic Prayer A*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest says*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant 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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and 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."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

*Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

***People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*(Please stay in place, and the bread will be brought to you. All bread is gluten free. Please do not throw the wrapper on the ground. The chalice will remain on the altar.)*

**Communion Anthem**

*This Is The Feast Of Victory For Our God*

Festival Canticle

## Post Communion Prayer

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

## Dismissal Anthem

*Welcome Happy Morning*

Fortunatus

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them*

*People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.***

## Postlude

*Carillon on "Thine Is The Glory"*

Young

## The Ministers of the Liturgy

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Bonnie J. Smith

**Organist:** Tom Parker

**Lector:** Tra Perry

**Soloists:** John Hill, Karen Ray, Tom Parker

**Altar Guild:** Lisa Rascoe, Kristy Copeland, Nancy Davis

**Hostesses:** Tra Perry, Lucy Horton, Claire Spruill, Nancy Davis

**Offering:** Tra Perry, Pat Ivey

**Ushers:** Sid Copeland, Bill Pittman

## **IN MEMORY**

**The Columbarium ferns are given in memory of Verna Gillam Perry by Norman and Jaquelin Perry.**

**The flowers adorning the cross are given in memory of Marian C. Perry by Norman and Jaquelin Perry and their families.**

**The Easter Lilies are given in memory of John W. "Jack" Cooper by Joe and Rosanna Rhea and their families.**