

A Liturgy of
AnteCommunion
online or at home

April 19, 2020
The Second Sunday of Easter



Trinity
Episcopal Church

207 West Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0811
trinity@trinitymoorestown.org

Prelude

Fugue in C Major, P. 131

Johann Pachelbel

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *Book of Common Prayer, page 355*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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.**

All sing or say together:

S-278; *William Mathias*

**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.**

Our worship begins today with a shout of praise and declaration of resurrection: Our "Alleluia!" comes from the Hebrew for "Praise God!"

The Book of Common Prayer calls for a "song of praise" to begin our worship. The traditional *Gloria* quotes the words the angels sang to announce the coming of Jesus, and then expands our praise of God and Jesus with the characteristics of majesty and salvation. The church has been singing some form of this hymn of praise for over sixteen centuries.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In the season of Easter, the Episcopal Church traditionally reads stories of the earliest days of the church from the Acts of the Apostles as the first reading. This speech, explaining Jesus' resurrection in terms of references from the Psalms, is from Peter's speech to the crowd that gathered to hear the disciples speak in many languages on the day of Pentecost.

Psalm 16

Book of Common Prayer, page 599

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

We read the psalm **responsively**, which means that the leader reads one verse and the congregation *responds* with the next.

The Psalm assigned for today is the one Peter quotes (in our first reading) to explain the resurrection. It is a song that expresses confidence in God even in times of trial or danger.

The first letter of Peter was written to comfort and reassure a community of Christians whose faith in Jesus has separated them from their social community. This excerpt assures the community that although they have not seen the return of Christ, their faith still provides the joy and salvation that they need.

- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 **I have set the LORD always before me; ***
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 **For you will not abandon me to the grave, ***
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Every Day and Night, the Lord Is With Me

Carol Choir, recorded March 8, 2020

Hal Hopson

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We read this story on the Sunday after Easter every year, perhaps because it makes reference to the day one week after the resurrection, when Jesus appears to Thomas with the other gathered disciples.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer, page 358

**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,**

As part of our response to the Word of God in our lives, we stand to proclaim the core story of our Christian faith together in **The Nicene Creed**, created in the late 4th century by the councils (gatherings of church leaders) in Nicea.

No matter what story of Jesus we are hearing in scripture, we remember and proclaim the whole outline of his life, death, and resurrection, and anticipate his coming again.

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 joy and hope let us pray to God who has given us the victory through the risen Christ.

That our risen Savior may fill us and all God's people with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That the risen Christ may bring peace to the earth, and wisdom and concord to all who lead the nations; that war, famine, and epidemic may cease, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That those isolated, afflicted, persecuted or living in fear may find renewal and strength in the good news of Easter, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That God may provide daily bread and abundant life for those who lack food, work or shelter, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That broken hearts may be made whole, and our communities renewed, in the victory of life over death through the risen Christ, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That the light of the risen Christ may comfort and strengthen the ill, the injured, the dying, and all those who care for the sick and the vulnerable, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That, according to Christ's promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised with him on the last day, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

That Christ may send the power of the Holy Spirit upon God's people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection day by day, we pray. Let the people say, **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Easter season, the Confession is omitted in celebration of our freedom from the bondage of sin brought about through Christ's resurrection.

Exchange of Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Today, in the spirit of Christ's peace, please reach out to greet someone you might normally see in worship by telephone, internet, or text message.

In response to hearing and reflecting on scripture, we turn to prayer together, asking God's care for our world, the church, for others and for ourselves.

The prayers we are using today are adapted from seasonal prayers used in The Church of England, and follow the pattern outlined on page 383 of *The Book of Common Prayer*, with attention to the church throughout the world, the nation and the world and those in authority, the needs of our local community, those who suffer or experience any trouble, and those who have died.

Anthem

Abigail Merk, soloist

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth, from Messiah

George Frederic Handel

We would normally receive a collection of money for the support of the church at this point in a Sunday service.

If you are able to fulfill your annual pledge, please mail your regular pledge check to the office, use your bank's online payment system, or visit www.trinitymoorestown.org/donate to make your weekly gift or regular pledge offering while we are unable to gather in person.

Instead of praying the Great Thanksgiving over bread and wine, in this time when we are physically separated, we join together in an act of spiritual communion, beginning with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples as the basis of all prayer.

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.**

During this time of worshipping together but physically distant, we depend on the long established teaching of the Church that if a person is prevented from physically receiving the Sacrament for reasons of extreme illness or disability, the desire for Christ's presence alone is enough for all the benefits of the Sacrament to be received. This is often referred to as "spiritual communion."

At every service in the Episcopal Church, we pray the **Lord's Prayer**, which we learn in the gospels
(Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4) The prayer takes its name from the request of Jesus' disciples, "Lord, teach us to pray."

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life, until by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

(From *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book*, rev 2014.,
based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus de Liguori)

Because we cannot physically receive the bread and wine together today, we name our need for Christ's nourishing presence in our spirits in this prayer for spiritual communion.

Post communion prayer *Book of Common Prayer, page 365*

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.

We pray the usual

Post-Communion

Prayer thanking God for the blessings received in the spiritual food of this sacrament, even though we have not physically received the bread or wine, and asking that we be prepared by those spiritual riches to go into the world to share in God's ongoing work.

Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith;; and the blessing of God Almighty, the holy and undivided Trinity, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The priest offers God's blessing, in a form adapted for the Easter season.

Hymn 193, v 1, 4, 5
Virtual Congregation

Puer Nobis

The Dismissal

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

The dismissal sends us to take our worship into the fullness of our daily lives, living in the name of Christ.

Our enthusiastic "Alleluia" as the final word of worship returns today in our celebration of the resurrection.

Postlude *Fugue in G Major, BWV 541*
 Johann Sebastian Bach

++++++

Deborah Della Rosa (with Sofia and Michael Della Rosa), *online Lector*
Bruce Velzy, *telephone Lector*
The Rev. Leslie G. Mazzacano, *Deacon*
The Rev. Emily A. Mellott, *Officiant*
Vernon Williams, *Organist and Cinematographer*