

A Liturgy of
AnteCommunion
online or at home

May 10, 2020
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Youth Sunday



Trinity
Episcopal Church

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Prelude

Song of May
Joseph Jongen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Throughout the Easter season our worship begins with a shout of praise and declaration of resurrection: Our “Alleluia!” comes from the Hebrew for “Praise God!”

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.

(BCP page 225)

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sing or say together:

S-278, Willam Mathias; or BCP page 356

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.

**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.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Book of Common Prayer, page 622

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me."

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by

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 story is of how Jerusalem responded to the preaching of Stephen, and introduces us to Saul, who will become the great apostle Paul.

Psalm 31 is a call to God for shelter and rescue, made in deep confidence and trust in God's protection and strength. Luke tells us that Jesus quotes from this psalm - expressing committing himself to God's care with confidence - while dying on the cross.

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

The first letter of Peter was written to comfort a community of Christians whose faith in Jesus has separated them from the community around them.

Here, the author encourages the community to see themselves – even rejected by the world around them – as the living building blocks for God’s house, for the work that God is doing now in the world, with Christ as the foundation

Midway through the season of Easter, our gospel readings shift from the narration of the events of resurrection to an exploration of the eternal nature of Jesus and the life of the church after Jesus returns to heaven. Today we hear Jesus offering guidance on how to abide with God when we cannot count on meeting God in the physical presence of Jesus.

mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence

I Am the Church

Virtual Cherub and Carol Choirs Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

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

John 14:1-14

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has

seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Emily Mellott

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,
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.**

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.

**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

Let us pray to the Lord for the needs of the world, and the concerns of our hearts.

We pray for the leaders of the church and all the people who feel connected to church. Please watch over us and keep us safe and connected to one another, and help us have faith that you will be with us through these hard times. Help us get through this and be together and happy again in the church.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of our country, for judges and elected officials. Help them make good decisions to keep us safe and healthy, and keep them healthy when they have to travel or meet with people for their work.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our military, police, fire fighters, and emergency response workers. Please protect them while they protect us. We pray for nurses and doctors and all who work to keep us healthy. Please protect them and make sure they stay healthy, too.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

We thank you for everyone who is working on vaccines and treatments. Please help them to do that work well and quickly. We thank you also for the people who are volunteering to test the vaccines, and for the people who are giving plasma to help others get well.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all the delivery drivers who bring us most of what we need, and for those who work in food stores and providing what we need to survive. Please bless all essential workers; keep them strong and protect them as they help everyone stay safe and fed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are getting laid off. Encourage them and help them stay financially stable. Help the volunteers and the government workers who are finding ways to help them. And please help all the small businesses to thrive in these hard times.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all the volunteers who are donating food and working to feed so many people who are hungry.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are elderly or sick. Please watch over them and protect them from the virus, and help us make sure they know they are loved and cared about.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for everyone who is stuck at home and feeling scared or crazy or lonely or bored. Help us persevere through this. Give us help and comfort through our families, and talking with friends through computers, and looking forward to the things that will happen when we are able to get together again.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for everyone who is trying to protect others by distancing. Please help us and people like us to make good decisions to keep other people healthy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The prayers we are using today were written by our Rite 13 youth and leaders, following the pattern outlined on page 383 of *The Book of Common Prayer*, with attention to the needs of the church, the nation and world, the needs of our local community, those who suffer or experience any trouble, and those who have died.

We pray for everyone who is ill or injured. Please help them recover, and provide them with medicines and treatment, and with encouragement and motivation that will help with what they are going through.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for everyone who has died. Help them ascend to heaven and watch over us, and help their families with their loss when they can't have funerals. Keep their families hopeful and not isolated in their grief.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for clean water, and pray for our earth. Please help it recover from pollution and damage to the ozone layer, and help us protect it. We thank you for opportunities to get outside and meet the beavers and horses and all your creatures. We pray for those who can't get outside that they can also feel your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for keeping us safe so far, and for helping us deal with all that is going on. Thank you for the families that keep us grounded and the friends who are helping us, and for the technology that lets us have church and classes now.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The priest adds a concluding prayer.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Help us to receive from your hand the things we have asked of you in faith; and strengthen us to do your will, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus 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.

The exchange of peace is rooted in Jesus' call to reconcile with one another as we approach God's altar. In this time of separation, it may be a cue to restore our connections with those we haven't been as close with as we would like to be!

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.

When gathered in person, we would 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.

Anthem
Virtual Canterbury Choir

“The Call” from *Five Mystical Songs*
Ralph Vaughn Williams

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.**

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."

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."

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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.

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)

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.

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.

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

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.**

Hymn 518
Virtual Congregation

Westminster Abbey

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ,
Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Tocacata
Eugène Gigout

The dismissal sends us to take our worship into the fullness of our daily lives, living in the name of Christ. Our enthusiastic “Alleluia” in response is the final word of worship throughout the Easter season.

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Sean Brennan, Thomas Solitro,
Nicholas Williams, Mercedes Deplet, *online Lectors*
Communion Class, *online Lord’s Prayer*

Emily Briggs, Rocco Andonie,
Madison Cook, Justin Rapuano, *telephone Lectors*

The Rev. Leslie G. Mazzacano, *Deacon*
The Rev. Emily A. Mellott, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Vernon Williams, *Organist and Cinematographer*