

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 
 OF *St. John the Baptist*

“Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!”



**Second Sunday
of Easter**

April 7, 2024

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude **Prelude on “Sons and Daughters”** **Pierre Dandrieu**
Hymn Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE

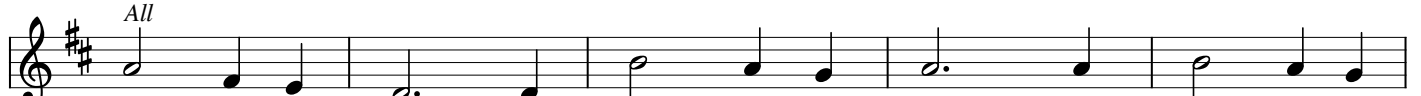
Opening Hymn (*Please stand as able*) *Please see page 8* #208 | “Alleluia! The Strife is O’er”


Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
Celebrant 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.**

Canticle of Praise: This Is the Feast

Celebrant

 This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All

 1. Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us


 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and


 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glor - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

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, forever and ever.

People ***Amen.***

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Acts:

Introduction to the First Reading

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

Acts 4:32-35

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 The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 133



Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 his mercy endures for ever.
 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 his mercy endures for ever.
 Let Israel now proclaim,
 “His mercy endures for ever.” [ANT.]

The Lord is my strength and my song,
 and he has become my salvation.
 There is a sound of exultation and victory
 the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!” [ANT.]

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John:

Introduction to the Second Reading

The writer testifies that God is light. Though baptized we still sin, from which God in Christ cleanses us, enabling us to live in fellowship with Christ and to walk in God’s light.

1 John 1:1-2:2

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (Please stand as able) – Please see page 9

#209 | “We Walk by Faith”

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

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

The Holy Gospel (The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.)

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed (*Please stand as able*)

*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.*

(Please be seated)

Anthem
"O Sons and Daughters"

Music: O filii et filiae, Words: Jean Tisserand

(Please stand as able)

The Prayers of the People
The Leader and People pray responsively.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, fire-fighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew priests, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant

Guide us and sustain us, Almighty God, and grant us knowledge of the power of your love that has turned death into life, so that we may die daily to ourselves and live eternally in your Light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR

Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>

Offertory Sentence

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung. Please stand as able)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hos - san - na in the High - est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

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.*

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People ***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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant 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.

You can commune host only, dip the host in the intinction chalice, or drink from the common cup.

Gluten free hosts available, please ask the priest.

Post Communion Prayer *(Please kneel or be seated)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People ***We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.***

(Please stand as able)

Benediction

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn *(Please stand as able)*

Please see page 11

#205 | *"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Christ.

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

Postlude "Trumpet Tune and Ayre"

Jeremiah Clarke

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Clara Escobar & Jean Skocypec, Fellowship Hosts

Elizabeth Scheer, Jim Mulholland, Susan Mattia, Technology Ministry

Doris Schirmer, Jean Skocypec & Carole Palmer, Altar Guild

This Week at St. John the Baptist

Wednesday - Bible Study 2 pm. & Choir Practice 5 p.m.

Share Pictures & Videos of
Parish Life using this QR Code
with Your Smart Phone Camera.



Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped. p

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawning gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped. p

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.
 Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr.
 William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Easter

209

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un-belief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra-cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol-low where he trod; but in his prom-ise
 may our faith a-bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear-er light we may be-hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be-lieve him near.
 we re-joice; and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end-less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.
 Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

$\text{♩} = 40$
 CM

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his
 3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do
 4 O Lord of all, with us a - bide in
 5 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing
 2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn
 3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee
 4 this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon
 5 thee, who, dead, a - gain dost live; to God the Fa - ther

1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
 3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.
 4 death can wield thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield.
 5 e - qual praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise.

Another accompaniment, 124.

Words: Latin, 5th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*

Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621);
 harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950

$\text{♩} = 50$
 LM

205

Easter

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5, Norman Mealy (b. 1923)
 Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616)