

Sunrise Easter Service



12 April 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Sierra Vista, AZ

Sunrise Easter Service 6 AM

In the dawning sunrise the Presider says:

Presider: 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 candle is lighted)

Leader This candle represents the eternal light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Let us pray.

ALL: O God, through your Son, Jesus, you have given your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new light, And grant that on this Easter morning we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may grow brighter each day in your everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Easter Affirmation

Presider: This is the good news—the tomb is empty,
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Presider: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never overcome it.

All: Alleluia!

Presider: This is the good news—once we were dead in our sins and now we are alive in Christ.

All: Alleluia!

The Peace:

Presider: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other. The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make us new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,

for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

Reader Psalm 30: 1-7, 11-12 (NIV)

- 1 *I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.*
- 2 *Lord my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.*
- 3 *You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.*
- 4 *Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.*
- 5 *For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.*
- 6 *When I felt secure, I said,
"I will never be shaken."*
- 7 *Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain[c] stand firm;*
- 11 *You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,*
- 12 *that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.*

Reader A reading from the letter to the Romans (6:3-11):

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

Song: #8 Morning has Broken

Gospel Lesson:

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (28:1-10)

People: Glory to you Lord Christ

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you Lord Christ

HOMILY

Easter Morning Litany

Leader: Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young,
you made life in all its beauty and abundance:
you gave birth to all that we know.
Hallowed be your name.

All: Hallowed be your name.

Leader: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,
a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you
had come among us, that you were one of us.
Hallowed be your name.

All: Hallowed be your name.

Leader: Early in the morning, surrounded by betrayers,
religious leaders, anxious governors, and silent friends,
you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God:
you shouldered and suffered the cross.
Hallowed be your name.

All: Hallowed be your name.

Leader: Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded garden
and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen,
that you had come back to those who had forgotten,
denied, mourned, and destroyed you.
Hallowed be your name.

All: Hallowed be your name.

Leader: This morning, in the presence of your church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, and your love for us; so we pray,

**All: Lord,
bring us new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
Forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are
prisoners of ourselves. Amen.**

(a brief moment of silence)

Leader: To all and to each, in this community and to all his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin anew. Thanks be to God!

People: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**All: 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.**

Easter Litany of Sending

Leader: Today and tomorrow,, Jesus says:

All: today and tomorrow, lo, I am with you always,

Leader when we try to do your will,

All: I am with you always,

Leader: when we go where we do not know,

All: I am with you always,

Leader: when we meet one we do not recognize,

All: I am with you always,

Leader: where faith ends and doubt begins,

All: I am with you always,

Leader: and should we forget you,

All: I am with you always,

Leader today and tomorrow,

**All today and tomorrow, you are with us always
to the end of the age. Amen.**

Benediction:

Presider: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth rejoicing in God's Spirit, alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God,! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!