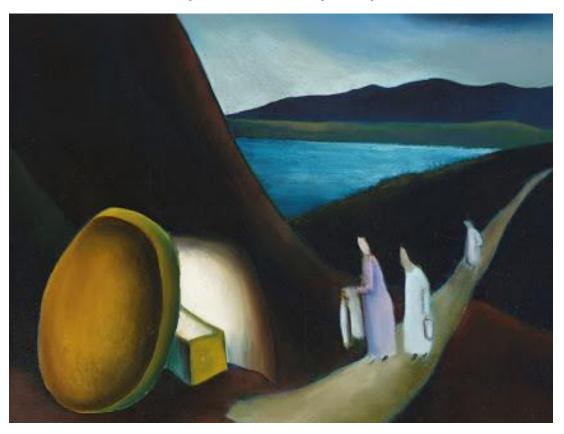
Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE



4 April 2021 6 a.m.

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!

Opening Song: 180 He is Risen! He is Risen!





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 do

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 118: 1-2, 14-24 (in unison)

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; * his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, * and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory * in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! * the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, * and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, * but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; * he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected * has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, * and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; * we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (15:1-11)

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them-though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

Gospel Lesson:

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (16:1-8) **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.

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 you Lord Christ: your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, and your love for us. We remember that through the

Pascal mystery we have died and been buried with you in baptism, so that we may rise with you to a new life. Therefore, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our desire to follow you, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Presider: Do you turn to Christ

All: I turn to Christ

Presider: Do you repent of your sins?

All: I repent of my sins.

Presider: Do you renounce all evil

All: I renounce all evil.

Presider: Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and Earth.

Presider: Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed humanity?

All: 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.

Presider: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

All: 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. Amen.

Presider: Heavenly Father, each time we renew our baptismal vows, we renew our life in you, and 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.

(Presider moves among the congregation sprinkling them with water to remind them of their baptism waters)

The Peace:

Presider: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share

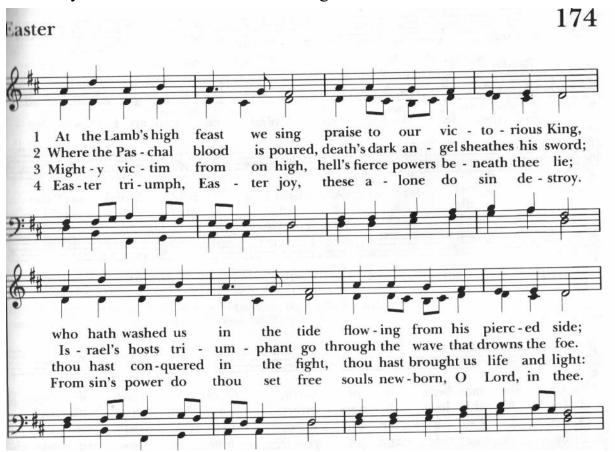
with each other. The peace of the Lord be always with you

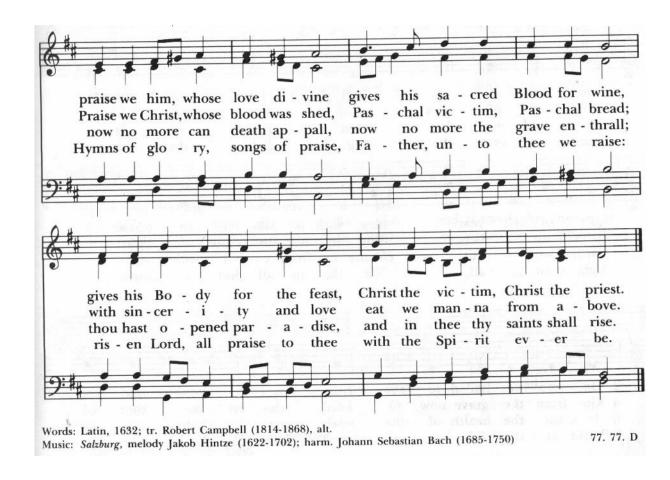
All: And also with you.

The Offertory

Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music: #174 At the Lambs High Feast





The Holy Communion: The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you **People: And also with you.**Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Presider continues:

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:

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.

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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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**.

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread:

(Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept)

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia!

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive the bread. Please observe social distancing. Extend your arm, palm open facing up to receive the bread. Move to the side 6ft to lower/raise your mask, eat the bread, replace your mask, and return to your seat.

Communion Music: #204 Now the Green Blade Riseth



Post Communion 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.

Closing Song: #207 Jesus Christ is Risen Today





Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Easter Hymn, from Lyra Davidica, 1708; adapt. The Compleat Psalmodist, 1749, alt., desc. Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised, 1950 Copyright © Hymns Ancient and Modern Limited. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Dismissal

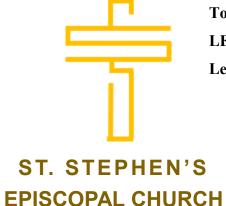
Presider: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

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

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

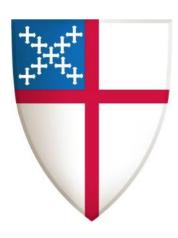
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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check

Or you can also use the ORC here to fill this out online.

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