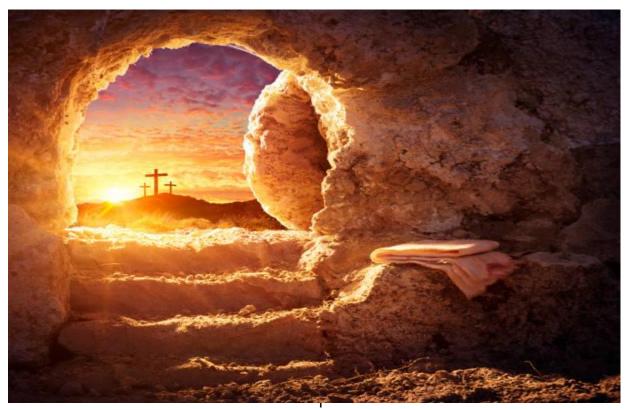


Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

EASTER

Sunday, 31 March 2024, 10 AM
Prelude: "Crown Him with Many Crowns", tune Diademata by George Elvey, arr John Purifoy Rev Allison Cornell

Welcome and Announcements



Opening Song: H1982 #207 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Salutation

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Presider: 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 you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria— H1982 #S-278

Father:

Amen.

are the Holy One,

Jesus Christ.

you alone are the Lord,

with the Holy Spirit,

you alone are the Most High,

you are seated at the right hand of the

receive our prayer. For you alone

in the glory of God the Father.

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 Fa-

ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

The Collect of the Day:

Presider: The Lord be with you **People:** And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray

All: 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 Liturgy of the Word: (Please be seated for the lessons)

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book Isaiah (49: 1-13):

2

Listen you coastlands, to me, And pay heed, you peoples from afar! The CREATOR OF ALL called me from the womb, from my mother's belly God made my name known. God made my mouth like a sharpened sword, and in the shadow of God's own hand, hid me; God made me like a polished arrow, in God's own quiver, hid me. And God said to me, "You are my slave, Israel, in you I am glorified."

But I, I said, "In vain have I labored, I have spent my strength for nothingness and vanity; surely my judgment is with the FAITHFUL ONE, and my wages with my God."

And now says the AUTHOR OF LIFE, who formed me in the womb to be God's slave, to return Jacob back to God, and that Israel might be gathered to God; I am honored in the sight of the HOLY ONE OF OLD, and my God is my strength. God says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my slave to raise up the tribes of Jacob the line of Rebekah, and to restore the survivors of Israel born of Rachel and Leah, and Bilhah and Zilpah. I will give you as a light to the nations, for it will be that my salvation reaches to the end of the earth."

Thus says the FAITHFUL ONE, the Redeemer of Israel, God's holy one, to one despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Queens and kings shall see and arise, princes and princesses, and they too shall prostrate themselves, on account of the FIRE OF SINAI, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Thus says the MIGHTY GOD: In a favorable time I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate portions; saying to the prisoners, "Go free!" to those who are in darkness, "Let yourselves be seen." Along the paths they shall pasture, and on all the bare heights shall be their pasture. They shall not hunger nor shall they thirst, neither shall heat nor sun strike them down, for the one who mother-loves them shall lead them, and by springs of water shall guide them.

And I will turn all my mountains into a pathway, and my highways shall be raised up. Look! These shall come from far away and see! These from the north and from the sea to the west, and these from the southland of Syene. Sing for joy, you heavens, and exult, O earth; let mountains break forth into singing! For the TENDER LOVING ONE has comforted God's people and will mother-love God's suffering ones.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm:

Psalm: 18:2-11, 16-19 (read in unison)

2 The ROCK WHO GAVE US BIRTH is my rock

And my fortress and my deliverer

My God and my rock in whom I take refuge

My shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

3 I call upon the HOLY ONE, may she be praised

And from my enemies I shall be saved

4 The snares of death encompassed me

The rivers of wickedness assailed me

5 The snares of Sheol encircled me;

the snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called upon SHE WHO HEARS;

to my God I cried for help.

From her temple she heard my voice,

and my cry came before her, to her ears.

7 Then the earth shuddered and quaked;

the foundations also of the mountains trembled

and were shaken because of her anger.

8 Smoke went up from her nostrils,

and consuming fire from her mouth;

burning coals blazed forth from her.

9 She spread out the heavens and descended;

thick darkness was under her feet.

10 She mounted up on a cherub and flew;

she soared upon the wings of the wind.

11 She made darkness her veil around her,

her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.

16 She reached down from on high, she took me;

she drew me out of the multitude of water.

17 She delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hate me; for they were too mighty for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity;

yet the SHELTERING GOD was my support.

19 She brought me out into a broad place;

she delivered me, because she delights in me.

o the Lord, for he is good; *

his mercy endures for ever.

Second Lesson: From the Epistle to the Hebrews (11:1-2, 23-24 28-40):

Now faith is the essence of things hoped for, the conviction of that which is not seen. By faith, indeed, were our ancestors approved.

By faith Moses was hidden after his birth by his mother and father for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter.

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, in order that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn daughters and sons of Israel.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though on dry land, but when the Egyptians chose to try, they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell when encircled for seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who did not believe, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, female and male, who through faith conquered realms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, felled foreign armies.

Women through resurrection received their dead brought back to life. Other women and men were tortured, refusing to receive a release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Yet other women and men received a trial of mocking and whipping, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were slaughtered by sword; they went about in animal-skins, in sheepskin and goatskin, impoverished, oppressed, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

And all these, commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.

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

Gospel Lesson: (Please stand as you are able)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20:1-18):

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now it was the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came, early on while it was still dark, to the tomb and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Messiah out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple came and went to the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple ran ahead of Peter and reached the tomb first. And bending down to see, saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not enter. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb, and he saw the linen wrappings lying there. And the facecloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up separately in another place.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, went in and saw and believed. Indeed, they did not understand the scripture, that it was necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned once more to their homes. Now Mary stood outside, facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent down to see in the tomb.

Then she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" She said to them, "Because they have taken my Savior, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you weep? For whom do you look?"

Thinking that he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. Rather, go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Abba and your Abba, to my God and your God.""

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Savior"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

HOMILY

Renewal of Baptismal Vows:

Presider Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your

commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven

and earth.

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People 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 in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace:

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you

The Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Song "Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord "#178

Doxology #380 vs. 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise him all creatures here below Praise him above, ye heavenly host Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Holy Communion - The Great Thanksgiving BCP Rite 2A

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

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider:

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 Pascal 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus -

Hymnal 1982 #S-128

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.

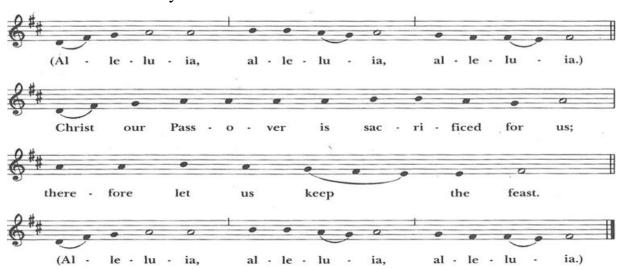
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and

for ever. AMEN.

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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) Fraction Anthem: Hymnal 1982 #S-154



Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have two different ways to receive communion. First way = go to the right of the altar, receive the bread, eat the bread, then take a sip of wine from the cup. Second way = go to the left of the altar, receive the

bread, dip the bread in the wine in the cup and then eat the bread. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. Bread is gluten free).

Communion Hymn: H1982 #204 Now the green blade riseth

Post Communion Prayer (*The people stand as they are able.*)

Presider; Let us pray.

All: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Presider: 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, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn H1982 #182 Christ is Alive!

Dismissal

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

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, (Alleluia!)

Postlude: "Look there! The Christ our Brother Comes Resplendent", tune Petrus 1982 hymnal # 196

Please join us for our Easter Brunch in the Parish Hall

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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Please leave voicemail message

Welcome Visitor!!!

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

here

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



□ Info	Update	Giving E	nvelopes [Mail News Letter
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