



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

# Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

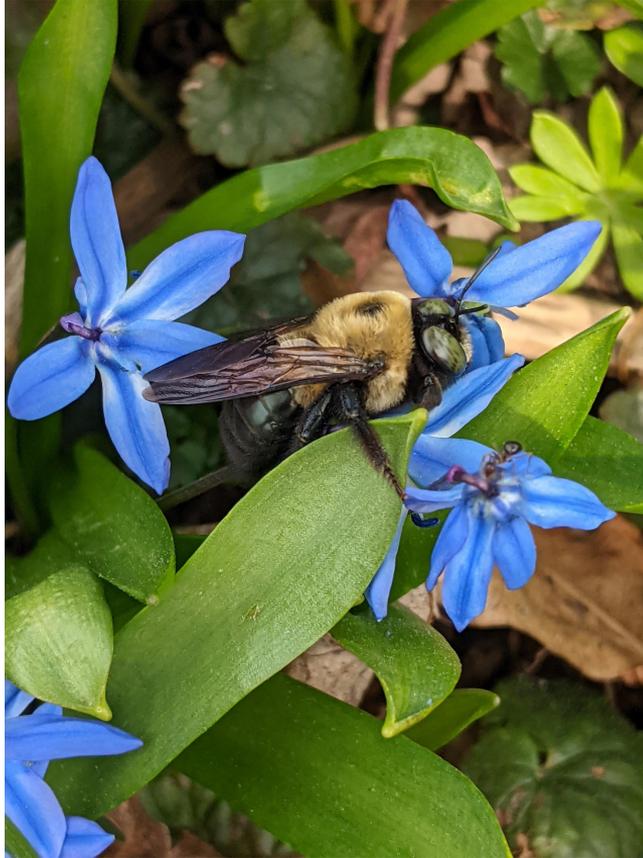
**People    The Lord is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!**

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.



# Gloria in Excelsis



**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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.**

# Salutation and Collect



Celebrant

God be with you.

**People**

**And also with you.**

Celebrant

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Lessons

## Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God**

# The Psalm

## Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
**I shall not be in want.**

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
**and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \*  
**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
**you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**



# The Second Lesson

1 John

## 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



**The Gospel**

## **John 10:11-18**

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

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

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

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



# The Sermon

# The Nicene Creed

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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],  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

# The Prayers of the People

As we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray for the Church and for the world.

We pray for your faithful people everywhere; for all ministries, lay and ordained, that heal, teach, and feed. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Bonnie, our Bishop. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for the nations of the world, and for all who hold authority. Let the mind of Christ be in them that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before you. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for the wellbeing of your creation; make us faithful stewards who repair all harm to soil, water and air, and who preserve the harmony of the natural world for generations to come. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for this community, and every community in our Diocese as we work to love and serve one another by being apart or by safely coming together. We pray for all priests, deacons, and lay leaders as you continue to guide us in your wisdom and comfort us with your Spirit. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. We give thanks and pray for all mental health professionals, doctors, nurses, and social workers; we give thanks and pray for those who care for prisoners, refugees, and asylum seekers; by your grace, give them joy and respite in their work. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

We pray for all who have died and all who mourn; we pray for those suffering losses in their health or wellbeing. Visit us in our grief that your Holy Spirit may heal us. Let your lovingkindness be upon us

**As we put our trust in you.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*



**The Peace**



**Spiritual Communion**

# Sursum Corda



Celebrant

**People**

Celebrant

**People**

Celebrant

**People**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.



Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary the Godbearer, Joseph her spouse, Catherine of Siena, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

**Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**



Together, let us pray in the words our  
Saviour Christ taught us:



**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 Blessing

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.