

Welcome to Christ *Episcopal* Church
Downtown Cape Girardeau

Sunday Worship

with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Welcome! Beinvenido! Karibu!

Scattered in the world we gather together as God's people in worship. We bring the fragments of our lives to be healed and made whole in Christ as we gather in community.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as God's people. One of the glories of the Episcopal/Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

As we gather, we bring our diverse gifts: gifts of music, dance, prophecy, teaching, preaching, and friendship. We present these gifts in the form of our most precious offering to God, our very selves, that all that we do may be for God's glory in the unity of Christ's church.

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Today we share in Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament or by "extension". This is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, but rather an extension of the Eucharistic feast once offered and consecrated at the altar. In this act of worship and celebration, we join with our siblings across the Church in gathering at Christ's to be nourished in following Jesus.

In this sacrament we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. As we receive this holy food, we share in full communion with Christ and with all who gather at his table—across time and space, throughout the Church, and in the great company of the saints.

Here at Christ's table we find our life renewed, our hope strengthened, and our unity deepened, as we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord in the power of the Spirit.

Welcome & Announcements

The Prelude

Organist: Michelle Suhr

Gathering Song

We begin by praising God through song and prayer

#535 “Ye servants of God,
your Master proclaim”

An Exhortation

Presider: Friends in Christ, welcome to this holy gathering. Today we share in Communion from the reserved sacrament. While this is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, it is an extension of the Eucharistic table. The bread and wine we receive were consecrated in the offering of the Eucharist at Christ *Episcopal* Church by the Rev. Jay Kanzler, and they unite us fully with Christ and with the whole Church across time and place.

***People:* Here we are nourished by Christ’s Body and Blood, strengthened in faith, and joined with all who gather at table. As we receive this gift of grace, we are sent out to love and serve in his name.**

Presider: In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

***People:* Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one Bread.**

Silence is kept

Greeting

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

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 your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

S 280 *Gloria in excelsis*

S 280 is found in the front section of the hymnal under Service Music.

Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

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

Presider: 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.

We Hear the Sacred Stories

*We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors
The congregation is then seated*

The First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the New Testament Writings

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at

home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector: Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people

¹The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

³He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁵You 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.

⁶Surely 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 Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from the New Testament Writings

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do

right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector: Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Preparing to Hear the Gospel

We stand, as we are able, for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance we place on Jesus' words and actions

Sequence Hymn

#645 "The King of love
my shepherd is"

The Reading of the Gospel

John 10:1-10

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

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a

stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Robert Crecelius

The congregation is then seated

The Affirmation of Faith

We stand, as we are able, for the affirmation of faith

The Nicene Creed

Presider: We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

People: **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.

The Prayers of the People

The concerns of the community and wider world, including those who are sick, in need, or in want, are named

Presider: In the light of the Resurrection, let us pray for the Church,
the world, and all who are in need, saying:

Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector: For your Church, O God, for all bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all who minister in your name, that we may live as Easter people, trusting that even when hope feels distant, you are still at work bringing new life; that we may bear witness to your love not only in word, but in lives poured out for others.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For this community of Christ Episcopal Church, for our shared life, our ministry, and our care for one another, that we may grow in unity, compassion, and in courage, and be a place where all who enter encounter your presence and your peace.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For those who are in need of healing, in body, in mind, or in spirit, and for those whose burdens are known only to you, that even in the midst of pain or uncertainty, your light may meet them and gently lead them toward wholeness. We pray especially for ____.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For those who feel lost, discouraged, or alone, for those walking through seasons that feel heavy or uncertain, that they may know they are not forgotten, and that you are drawing them toward hope, toward healing, and toward life renewed.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For our neighbors, especially those we serve through our food pantry and community meals, that all may know dignity, nourishment, and belonging, and that we may serve not only with compassion, but with humility and joy.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the world, for places of violence and division, and for all who long for justice and peace, that your wisdom may guide those in authority, and that your truth may bring light where there is confusion and fear.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For those who have entered into eternal life, especially those we now name ____, and for those who grieve, that even in the face of death, your promise of life is their comfort and hope, and that light perpetual may shine upon them.

***People:* Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Presider: God of new life, you meet us in every season, in joy and in sorrow, in hope and in uncertainty. Receive these prayers and continue your work in us, that we may live as people of the Resurrection, trusting that your love will have the final word; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept

Presider: 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.

***People:* 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.**

Presider: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

***People:* That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

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

Presider: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace

The Offertory

Presider: We prepare the Table and offer ourselves to God in thanksgiving.

The Offertory Hymn

The ushers will receive the people's offerings

#708 *“Savior, like a shepherd lead us”*

Holy Communion by Extension

We stand, as we are able

Presider: Beloveds, this is Christ's table. Not because we have earned it, but because love has made a way. Today, we receive the holy gifts already consecrated, a living reminder that Christ is not confined to a moment but is present with us always. Risen. Alive. Among us.

The Presider then leads the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: So, with all who labor for your kingdom, with angels and archangels, and with the saints in every age, we pray to you, as our Savior has taught us:

***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 Invitation to Communion

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, with thanksgiving.

The congregation is then seated

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.
Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the Celebrant.
If you wish to receive the bread only, know that you receive the Sacrament fully.
If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward,
cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.*

During Communion, healing ministers are available in the narthex for quiet prayer and anointing. All are welcome.

The Communion Hymn

#663 “The Lord my God
my shepherd is”

Post-Communion Prayer

We stand, as we are able, for the Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Silence is kept

***People:* Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed, to love and serve you in the power of the Resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Easter Blessing

Presider: May the God of resurrection bring you from death to life, from fear to courage, from sorrow to joy; and may Christ, risen and present, walk beside you and dwell within you, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Let us ever walk with Jesus"

Hymn located on next page of the bulletin

The Sending

Presider: Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

***People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude

Organist: Michelle Suhr

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath,
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter,
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high,
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, ah.

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope to see you again soon
as we offer Christ's unfenced love to the world.

Today's Servers:

Presider.....Robert Crecelius
Eucharistic Minister.....Brooke Clubbs
Lector.....Tabitha Snowden
Host.....Carl Muench
Altar Guild.....Barbara Giddens
St. Isidore's Guild.....Bruce & Will Miller
Vestry Counter.....John McGowan
Organist.....Michelle Suhr
Healing Ministers.....Gloria Miller, Pam Williams

Next Week's Servers:

If a spot is marked "Open," it still needs to be filled, please reach out if you can serve.

Presider.....Pastor Carol Brazeale
Eucharistic Minister.....Tabitha Snowden
Lector.....Pam Williams
Host.....Carl Muench
Altar Guild.....Gina Thomas
St. Isidore's Guild.....Joey West
Vestry Counter.....*Open*
Organist.....Michelle Suhr



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