



The Season of Easter

Gathering

Prelude “Easter Carol” Alan Bullard

Opening Hymn See bulletin p. 13

Opening Rite: Liturgy of Light

Officiant: Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord’s Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord’s Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather in person and online, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection.

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The following passage of scripture may be read:

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (*Colossians 3:1*)

Prayer for Christ’s Light

Candles may now be lit during the following prayer:

Officiant: O God, we give thanks for the gift of your light – shining on the first day of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise.

People: You sent Jesus, light of the world, to be our way of truth and life. Help us to follow him each day and rest in him

each night until at last we come to live with you in endless light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and with the Holy Spirit we give you honor and glory, now and always. *Amen.*

The Confession

As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.

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

Silence is kept for a time.

Officiant: 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.

Officiant: 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.*

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: *Amen.*

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

Officiant: 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.

Hymn of Praise

See bulletin p.14

Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray: O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Readings

The First Reading: Acts 3:12–19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see

and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 4

- 1 **A**nswer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

The Second Reading: 1 John 3:1–7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

See bulletin p.15

The Gospel: Luke 24:36b–48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the

law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Joshua Smith

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who 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 God.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We 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.*

The Prayers of the People

Reader: We open our hearts and minds and pray to you God.
We pray for the church around the world, may we find
we are sisters and brothers and stop finding what
divides us. We pray especially for _____.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for this nation and all the nations of the world
that they may consider the common good and hold up
the least of these.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for those whose lives have been touched by
violence and angry, hateful words. We ask you to
remind us of your grace, mercy, and love for all you
have created.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for you to hold these prayers for our
communities and especially for the homeless and those
who struggle.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We lift up to you the concerns of those here present
and those not with us, especially:

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you for the beauty of your creation and all the blessings of this life. For those things which remind us of You.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for the comfort of those who grieve and peace to the departed (especially...)

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude with the following or some other suitable prayer:

Officiant: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

Agape Hymn

See bulletin p.15

The Agape

While sharing a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time, this liturgy expresses our longing for a time when we can once more share and gather together at the Eucharistic table. This practice of giving thanks for bread, wine and food is ancient, going back to the hospitality our ancestor Abraham showed to his visitors. While not the full celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that giving thanks over water is a reminder of our Baptism.

The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of wine:

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of our daily bread:

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Officiant and people give thanks for the gift of food:

Officiant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

People: You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The wine, bread and food may be consumed after the liturgy.

The Conclusion

Officiant: God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

People: You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.

Officiant: Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

People: Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace is exchanged:

Officiant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

[Click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry by donating online.

Closing Hymn

See bulletin p.17

The Sending

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

People: ***Amen. Alleluia!***

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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

Postlude

“Victory”

Michael Helman

A simple meal may now be shared.

Priest-in-Charge

Rev. Annette Joseph

Officiant/Preacher

Joshua Smith

Reader

Matthew Heisserer-Miller

Host

Judi Naeter

Organist

Mary Miller

Choir Director

Randyn Heisserer-Miller

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This Joyful Eastertide

Unison or harmony

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son

sor - row! My Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath
riv - er: Lord of all life, from ill my
slum - ber, till trump from east to west shall

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.
pass - ing life de - liv - er. Had Christ, that once was
wake the dead in num - ber.

slain, ne'er burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text

Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. © 1990 Iona Community, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.
based on two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b.1933)

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Irr.

LEVAS 69

I Come to the Garden Alone

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

1. dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
2. sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He
3. night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go through the

1. on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.
 2. gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.
 3. voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He

tells me I am His own, — And the joy we share as we

tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er — known. —

Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946)
 Music: C. Austin Miles

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

Notes on the Service

The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 • Ps. 4 • 1 Jn. 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48

The collect, a 20th century composition, alludes to the Supper of the incognito Christ with two disciples at the village of Emmaus, which was the subject of the Easter III Gospel reading in 2020, and which is the prelude to this year's Gospel wherein Christ again is known in the Breaking of Bread.

Christ's resurrection brought **forgiveness of sin**, contend all three New Testament readings today. The Acts passage is part of a sermon by Peter to a crowd in the Jerusalem temple, following the cure of a lame man. Peter disclaims that he and John have healed the man. The Healer is Jesus whom the crowd had earlier denied before Pilate. As one who had himself denied Jesus and had been forgiven, Peter assures the crowd that they will not be punished for their unwitting murder of the Author of life, if they repent.

"The Lord does wonders for the faithful," Psalm 4:3, could be the song of the lame man healed at the intercession of Peter and John in Acts, and the song of the astonished disciples in today's Gospel. At bedtime, an anonymous Jew's troubled heart recites Psalm 4 in the darkness, asking the Lord to lift up the light of his countenance. In Christian monks' use, this is the first psalm of Compline, the final service of the day.

Believers are children of God, says John. Whether or not this John is the same Apostle John who was accompanying Peter in today's first reading is unknown. John's testimony describes Christ as the Pure One and the Sinless One, as Peter called him the Holy and Righteous One. Believers are to abide in Christ, and so will become like Christ, who came to take away sin.

After the Supper at Emmaus, Cleopas and the other disciple, maybe John, to whom Christ had appeared on the road have now rushed back to Jerusalem to report to the others what they had seen. A second time that evening, the risen Christ appears, and assures them that he is not a ghost, for ghosts cannot be touched, nor do ghosts eat. As he had done at Emmaus, while he eats he interprets scripture, i.e., what Christians call the Old Testament: Torah, or "Moses", is the first section of the Hebrew Bible; prophets is the second; psalms is the first book of the third section. All sections, Christ explains, point to a messiah who suffers and rises again so that everyone, not Jews only, should be forgiven.

Word of that forgiveness spreads as apostles carry it. On Eastertide Sundays, Acts passages will trace the extension of the forgiving Word outward from the high priests at Jerusalem (April 25), to an Ethiopian official near Gaza (May 2) and to a Roman centurion at Caesarea (May 9).

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Saint Louis, Missouri