



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EASTER DAY, YEAR A

Liturgy of the Word

April 12, 2020 10 A.M.

INTROIT

Antiphon

Let all the world in every corner sing,
 My God and King.
 The heavens are not too high,
 His praise may thither fly:
 The earth is not too low,
 His praises there may grow.

The Church with Psalms must shout,
 No door can keep them out:
 But above all, the heart
 Must bear the longest part.

Words: George Herbert (1593–1633), *The Temple*, 1633 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), *5 Mystical Songs*, 1911

HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today (207, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

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 FIRST LESSON

JEREMIAH 31:1-6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

- 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

ACTS 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Alleluia! The strife is o'er (208, *The Hymnal 1982*)

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.

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.
 Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1826-1889)

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:1-10

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

THE 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 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: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider

Our Savior is resurrected from the dead, bringing renewal to Christians around the globe. With joyful gratitude, we pray for the church and for the world.

Intercessor and People

We pray for the church universal: guide the ministers of your Word as they honor the traditions of the past, tend the cares of the present, and build the communities of the future. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of the world: plant wisdom and compassion in their hearts, and teach them to sow seeds of righteousness and mercy. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for this wondrous creation: continue to reveal its bountiful complexity and fragile beauty, and inspire us to safeguard these gifts for all posterity. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for your human family: take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for this holy gathering of the faithful: strengthen us to continue in the way of the apostles, proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in any need or trouble: feed the hungry, tend the sick, relieve the weary, bless the dying, and soothe the suffering. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for those most affected by the coronavirus crisis, including: health care workers and first responders; farmers, transporters, and grocers; students and teachers; those who are unemployed; those who in the best of times live at the margins of our communities; and the politicians who make decisions on our behalf. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died: give them Christ's triumph over death, and bring them into your perpetual light. Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for the concerns that we now lift toward you in the stillness of our hearts. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider

Risen Christ, hear the prayers offered by these your gathered people; instill in our hearts the assurance of your resurrected life, that we may follow your Way in faith, hope, joy, and love; in the name of the one Holy and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. If you are not set up for automatic giving, know that our online donation system may be accessed from the Home page of the Church website, and that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed.

OFFERTORY HYMN

At the Lamb's high feast we sing (174, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

(“A General Thanksgiving when Communion Cannot Be Shared,” The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips, adapted)

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Holy and Eternal God, we give you thanks for the blessings of life,
and for gathering us always to your heart
when we pray, and when we forget to pray, and when we cannot pray.
We bless you for nourishing us with your abiding presence
through the toils of our labor
and through the hours we cannot work as we would or rest as we need.
Continue beside us to sanctify our time;
turn our minds and hands to the work of love
in this world you have made and filled with your goodness.
Help us to follow patiently and bravely
in the path of your son Jesus—
he who came among us in our mortality
to lift us to the life immortal;
and who lives and reigns with you
in the power of the Holy Spirit, One God,
to the ages of ages. Amen.**

THE PASCHAL BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937), Symphony No. 5, Op. 42, 1887

After the Organ Voluntary, please stay online for virtual Coffee Hour.



ABOUT TODAY'S LITURGY

Easter is the feast of Christ's resurrection. According to Bede, an eighth-century English monk, the word derives from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre. Christians in England applied the word to the principal festival of the church year, both day and season. Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, the pascha or Christian Passover, and the eighth day of cosmic creation. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief. Easter sets the experience of springtime next to the ancient stories of deliverance and the proclamation of the risen Christ. In the west, Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox. The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on the first Sunday after the Jewish pesach or Passover (which follows the spring full moon). The Easter Season lasts fifty days, from Easter Eve through the Day of Pentecost.

from An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Musician: Dr. Noah Horne

Lectors: Judy Thompson, Kyle Holton

Intercessor: Bob Herdt

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who work in healthcare and those who have lost their livelihood

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Mary's, Manchester; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; All Saints', Meriden; Hospital chaplains; Stephen Ministers; other pastoral care groups; ministries of healing; parish nurses; wellness programs; recovery ministries

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of the Land of the Holy One

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Leadership at St. Thomas's

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Denise Terry (Junior Warden)

Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)

Linda Meyer (Clerk)

Greg D'Andrea

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The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

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