



April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

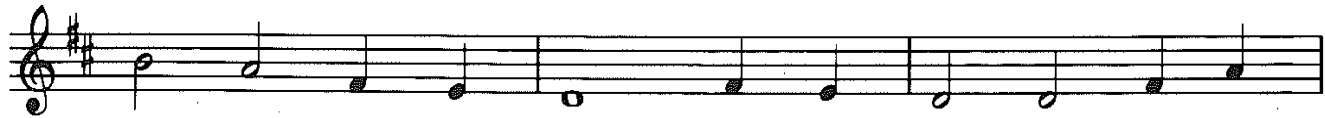
Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter

Opening Hymn

Come thou fount of every blessing



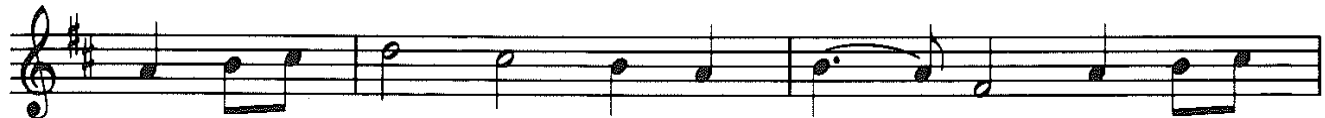
1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



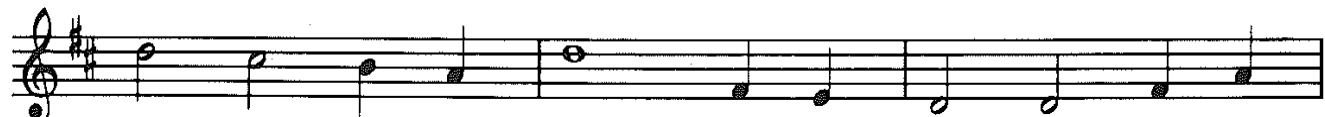
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



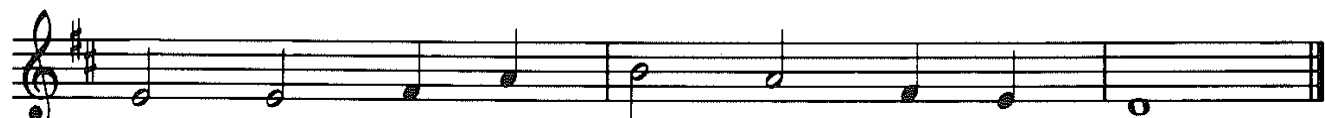
ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The Word of God

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ has 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.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

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 First Lesson

Acts 4: 5-12

Introduction to the Lesson

After learning that Peter and John have healed a crippled man, the Jewish council inquires by what authority the apostles acted. Peter boldly testifies to the power of Jesus Christ.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

*The Psalm will be said responsively by whole verse,
alternating each verse with the Lector who reads first*

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

Introduction to the Lesson

Christians are to love one another, just as Jesus loves us. Those who obey his commandments live in him, just as he lives in us.

A reading from the First Letter of John:

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gospel Hymn

The king of love my shepherd is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 * 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear



1 fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 2 soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 4 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev - er.
 2 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 3 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 4 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

Introduction to the Lesson

Jesus teaches that he is the good shepherd. The good shepherd willingly lays down his life for the sheep.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Mission of Holy Comforter

Love God, Love Others

Serve God, Serve Others

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:
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 worshipped 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

Prayers of the People

Our Lord lives, for death has no more power over him. And so we, God's holy church, proclaim the resurrection, saying, Christ has risen!

The Lord has risen indeed.

God of life, in gratitude and great joy, we thank you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. We especially give thanks for (*Intercessions of thanksgiving offered here*). On this day, give us hope, for Christ has risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all our brothers and sisters, that death may have no more power over us. We especially pray for those in need of healing (*Intercessions of healing offered here*) For Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears (*Intercessions for the departed offered here*). For Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world. For Christ is risen!

The Lord has risen indeed!

Celebrant: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

(The Confession is omitted during the Easter season.)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory Hymn

My shepherd will supply my need



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream. _____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way. _____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise. _____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a set - tled rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. _____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head. _____
or a guest, but like a child at home. _____

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A *Also found on page 361 in The Book of Common Prayer*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: 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 Paschal 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 the everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus is said:

*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.

Celebrant: 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:

Celebrant and People: *Christ has died.*

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: 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 forever. *Amen.*

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

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The celebrant receives communion.
The people receive after the dismissal.*

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving 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.*

The Blessing and the Dismissal

Celebrant: Now go forth to live boldly, as if death has no power over you, because it does not. Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind.


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

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.


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

Recessional


At the Lamb's high feast




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 - gels 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 soul's 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.

Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Carole Nelson
Reader	Lori Morgan
Soloist	Mollie Baldwin
Altar Guild	Karen Sheppard
Vestry Person of the Day	David Blake
Live Streaming	Thomas Saunders
Musician	Brad Green

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Pastor
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Spessert, Children's Ministry Director
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

Vestry

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

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