

All Angels Episcopal Church



May 4, 2025

Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

1982 Hymnal #460



1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we

3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on



1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is

3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the



1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the

3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -



1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a

2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty

3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,



1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his

3 plead for me, where the songs of all the



1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?

3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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 Lessons *Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.*

Today's first two lessons are about the conversion of St. Paul the Apostle. Originally named Saul, he persecuted the early Church which was called The Way (in the year 40, it became known as Christianity). His conversion event happened eight or nine years after the resurrection. The first lesson is about Saul receiving a vision of Jesus. The second lesson is about Saul's conversion.

A reading from Acts

Acts 9:1-9

Saul was breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

As he was approaching Damascus, a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm reading for this morning is from Psalm 30

Ps 30:1-6

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favor for a lifetime.

Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

A reading from Acts

Acts 9:10-20

[After the vision of Jesus, Saul could not see. He was led by hand to the house of a believer named Judas The Galilean who lived in Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.]

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias."

He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man; how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to arrest all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

1982 Hymnal #178

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 21:1-19

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so

many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

1982 Hymnal #178

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his Name.

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. David J. Marshall

Reflection Hymn

Amazing Grace
Cynthia Tate, Flute

arr. Carol Sue Dickson

The Nicene Creed *(The word "catholic" means universal or global body of Christian believers)*

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 *(Please stand or kneel or sit as you are able)*

Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, you commanded your servant Peter to tend your sheep.

Equip your Church with every good gift, so it feeds your flock with your holy Word and life-giving Sacraments.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Church is persecuted today, even as it was in the days of the Apostles. And yet, the heart of Saul was changed. Breathe your Spirit onto those who seek to harm the Church so that they too will change their hearts and minds.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless this congregation. Kindle our hearts to seek the lost, lift up the broken-hearted, and invite our neighbors to hear your holy and life-changing Word.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and strengthen all who take counsel for the nations. Guide them in pathways of justice and righteousness. Use their labors to feed all people, to live in friendship with their neighbor, and to walk humbly before you, their Lord and God.

Breathe your peace on Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the healing of your touch to all those who suffer in body or spirit. Today we remember before you Downs IV, Holden, Barbara, Maria Christine, Caitlin, Dennis, Angie, Amy Jo, Carling, Michael, Ian, Joan, Diana, Anne, Alyssa, Joe, Denise, Zachary and Chris.

We pray for those who receive the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara, and Kim. We pray for those going through cancer treatments and those in remission, especially, Margaret, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie, Douglas, Frank, Gerta, Lauren, TJ, Cara, Valerie, Violet, Joan, Nancy, Julie, George, Denise, Mark and John.

We pray for those in Hospice, especially Jeanne and Regina.

Breathe your healing and peace on all those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we entrust into your care those for whom we love but see no longer.

(Silence) Give us faith to trust your Word in times of doubt and confusion. Give us compassion to care for those in need. Give us joy, which is the inheritance of all whom you love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Confession is traditionally omitted during the season of Easter.

The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Greetings, Announcements and Introductions

Offertory Anthem *Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness* Ellerton/Dearnley

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Holy Eucharist Prayer B BCP 367

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,___

heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in___ the high - est.

Bless - ed___ is he who comes in the name of the Lord.___ Ho -

san - na in___ the high - est. Ho - san - na in___ the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **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.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Jesus invites everyone to meet him here. If you would like to receive the bread or a blessing, please come forward. If you would prefer to have communion brought to you, please let one of the ushers know and we will bring it to you.

Communion Music

David Stasney

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.
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

Closing Hymn *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* Hymnal #174

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
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;
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,
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.
ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia

Postlude *Postlude* Andrew Gant

New to All Angels? Welcome! Be sure to sign the guest registry in the lobby.

Announcements

Gallery Artist The Gallery Artist for May is Zerbe Sodervick. Please stop by and enjoy the work of this talented local artist. Checks should be written to All Angels by the Sea.

Men's and Women's Discussion Group Men's Discussion group, 10:00 on Tuesdays; Women's Discussion Group, 10:00 on Wednesdays. Both groups in person and via Zoom.

Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 10 am.
New members are always welcome!

Coffee Hour Host One of the most important things we do is gather after the service for coffee hour. If you are interested in hosting, the sign up sheet is on the Gallery table. If you would like help, sign up and we will find someone to show you how it is done.

Centering Prayer Centering Prayer invites you to pray with them, every day, at 8 am, wherever you are. When you enter into prayer at 8 am (Eastern), you will know that others are praying at the same time.

Birthdays & Anniversaries If you have a birthday or anniversary coming up next month, please email Linn Torres at lt@allangelslbk.org

Visit our Website Video of Today's Service, Discussion Group Articles, Gallery Artist, and our weekly Tidings can all be found on our website: **www.allangelslbk.org**.



Flower Dedication

The flowers today are given to the glory of God



563 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida
The Rev. David J. Marshall
941-383-8161
www.allangelslbk.org.

Our mission is to bring the living Christ
to those inside and outside the church.

Today's presenters

Bob Erker — Chalice
Carol Erker — Lector
Ginny Upshaw — Prayers
Phil Deming, Hank Kochan — Ushers
Cynthia Tate — Flute
Ethan Marshall — Acolyte
Elijah Marshall — A/V tech
Scott Wuesthoff — Zoom host
Ginny Upshaw — Altar Guild
Daphne Walker — Flowers
Debi Nettlow — Offering Counters
Bob and Carol Erker — Coffee Hour

Vestry

Cade Sibley
Carol Erker
Allen McGee
David Bishop
Hank Kochan
Larry Elder
Brian Davis
Junior Warden
Reuben Fernandez
Senior Warden

David Stasney
Music Director
Fr. Fred Emrich
Retired Associate
The Very Rev. David J. Marshall,
Rector

Reflection

To Forgive or to Retain

On the first night of Easter Sunday, Jesus stood among his disciples, said, “Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

He breathed the Holy Spirit on them and then said,

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

I find it interesting that what the apostles remembered about that night was as follows:

peace;

sent;

forgive.

I’d like to talk with you about that last part – the forgive part.

Over the centuries, the institutional Church has interpreted this to mean that the Church can forgive sins, and the Church can retain sins. I respectfully disagree — with the retaining part.

A seminary professor of ethics gave a detailed explanation of who should be absolved of their sins and who should be withheld. His teaching was correct in the sense that sometimes people seek out a priest not to confess but to get permission. The professor was advising us on being able to tell the difference. But, as noted above, I disagree that the institutional Church can decide to retain sins. Why? God does the forgiving. If God wants to forgive (even Hitler) that’s up to God’s grace and love. Also, humans tend to do things that give them, or the institution, power — including deciding who is worthy of forgiveness and who is not. That was not Jesus’s point.

“*So I send you*” is the key to this passage. Like a parent sending a child to High School, the child can decide what to do and the parent, for the most part, has to watch. Jesus sent the disciples out and said that if you forgive others they are forgiven. But you also have the choice to not forgive.

The disciples went out and started living a life of forgiveness. The first people they forgave were the very people who sent Jesus to the cross. They did this out of a sense of forgiveness that Jesus gave them (like the prayer *forgive as we have been forgiven*). Bear in mind, however, they could have chosen not to forgive but to retain and blame and exclude.

Think of it this way: a comedian said, “Honesty is the best policy; but it’s not the only policy.” The best way to live is to forgive. But it’s not the only way to live. Jesus sends us out too, with the Breath of God and the Holy Spirit, with the hope that we forgive as we have been forgiven. But it’s not the only policy.

- Fr. Dave