



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 20, 2025 10:00AM

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

69 Mobley Road, PO Box 752, Hamilton, Georgia 31811

(706) 628-7272 • www.stnicholashamilton.org

The Reverend Robert J. Farrow, AIA, MDiv, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

This portion of the service represents the last moments of fear and grieving before we begin celebrating the glorious resurrection of our Lord. Please observe somber silence until the Easter service begins.

The service will begin outside, under the portico at the front of the church. Father Bob will lead the procession inside the nave, with the lay ministers behind him. Please follow them in but remain standing at your seat until after the Exsultet.

THE LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

After the fire is kindled, the Officiant says:

Dear friends in Christ: At this most holy time, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREPARATION AND LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Officiant traces the markings on the Paschal Candle.

Officiant:

Christ, yesterday and today; the beginning and the end; Alpha and Omega:

His are the times, the seasons, and the ages. To him be glory and dominion, through all eternity and forever. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is then lit from the newly kindled fire.

Officiant: May the Light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

The Officiant, bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and saying:

Officiant: The Light of Christ

People: Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

EXSULTET

Officiant:
Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people. **Amen.**

Please be seated. Father Bob and the Lay Ministers will leave the nave to prepare for the Easter processional.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Our guest musicians today are Ethen Eskew and Brooke Helmly.

PRELUDE | Trumpet Voluntary William Boyce *arr. D. Marlatt*

The altar candles will be lit from the Paschal Candle.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Easter Hymn* Christ is risen today Hymnal 207

OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP 355

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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.**

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | Acts 10:34-43

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *Confitemini Domino*

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Lector: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | *Victory* Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done

Hymnal 208

THE GOSPEL | Luke 24:1-12

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated for the sermon.

THE SERMON

Rev. Bob Farrow

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Book of Common Prayer 232

All stand as able.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: 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.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For Easter

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace.

Awake, O Church, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love. Awake, O World, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each person might share and honor the other.

Awake, O People, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the suffering, O God, that they might know your saving help. Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness.

Awake, O Saints, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Awake, O Soul, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

The people may offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings.

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy! Amen, *Alleluia!*

Alleluia, amen!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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. 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. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

THE OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN | I serve a risen Savior

1 I serve a risen Savior
He's in the world today.
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy;
I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

Refrain:

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

2 In all the world around me
I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading,
Through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing
Will come at last.

Refrain

3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
To Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him,
The Help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
So good and kind.

Refrain

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING | Eucharistic Prayer A

The Book of Common Prayer 361

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.**

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 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 | Hymnal S 125

The Holy Eucharist II

S 125

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

The people stand or kneel as able.

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:

Together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

FRACTION ANTHEM | Hymnal S 164

S 164

The Holy Eucharist

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

The first system of musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The fourth system of musical notation. It concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant:

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 SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

After taking communion, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the front of the church for special prayer and blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN | *Fisk of Gloucester* Lift Your voice rejoicing Performed by Kevin Anderson
If you'd like to follow along, this hymn can be found on page 190 of the Hymnal.

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL | *St. Albinus* Jesus lives! thy terrors now Hymnal 194

DISMISSAL

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

Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Thank you for joining us in worship today.

St. Nicholas' Mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Mike Sawyer, Edward Martin, and the Brown family as they mourn Kin's mother, Mary Ann. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our homebound congregants: Liz Dixon and Jewell Wells.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

Please send all prayer requests to pastoralcare@stnicholashamilton.org.

VESTRY

Rose Brent, *Senior Warden*
Martha Dimon, *Junior Warden*
Carolyn Cox, Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry
Alex Garrett, Clerk of the Vestry
Jim Gilliam, Treasurer

MINISTERS THIS WEEK

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Lector: | Alex Garrett |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Connie Blackmon |
| Ushers: | Jim Gilliam & Alex Garrett |
| Virtual Minister: | Drucye Cox |
| Crucifer: | Riley-Anne Johnson |
| Flowers: | Flower Guild |

If you are visiting today, we'd love to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor card to be found in your pew or on the table in the narthex and give to an usher.

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

Spring Treats

We will have special treats and lemonade after the April 20 Easter service provided by your Parish Life Committee. Please stay to nibble and mingle and enjoy Easter morning together. After Easter, let's continue post-service fellowship time with cookies and lemonade on non-brunch Sundays, to give us a few minutes after the service to just enjoy each other's company. If you'd like to bring a simple treat one Sunday, a sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Vestry Meets April 21 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Contact Erin if you would like to attend.

Book Club Selects Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* for May

In 2004 Barbara Kingsolver moved from Tucson, where she had lived since 1978, and returned to southern Appalachia, the setting of several recent notable books, including *Flight Behavior*, the book club's selection for its next meeting. Book Club will meet May 7 after Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.

Episcopal Day at Synovus Park – May 4!



The Chattahoochee Valley Convocation has arranged to celebrate Episcopal Day at Synovus Park on **Sunday, May 4** as the Clingstones take on the Biloxi Shuckers. Game time is 1:05 pm, so you can head over to the park right after worship. Lunch will be available for purchase at concession stands. Seats in sections 212 and 213, are reserved for us; if we fill up those seats, there will still be plenty of general admission seats available. The cost of tickets is \$10 each, plus some handling fees. You can purchase directly through this link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Episcopalchurches2>. Wear your Episcopal or church t-shirts or other swag so we can show the world how much fun Episcopalians have together.

Debbie Anderson of St. Thomas will be coordinating the **Episcopal Choir** to sing the National Anthem. We'd love for a few singers to represent St. Nicholas. Let Erin know if you're interested and she'll get your name to Debbie.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CARPOOLING, PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX!

The **National Day of Prayer in** 2025 will be observed on Thursday, May 1st. This annual event encourages Americans of all faiths to unite in prayer for the nation.

Thursday, May 1 there will be a program at Historic Zion Church, 0 Jackson Avenue, in Talbotton, Ga beginning at 9 a.m., with refreshments after. Following the program, the church will remain open until 3:00 for anyone who wants to come in and pray.

Pastor Franklin Holmes of Shady Grove Baptist Church in Talbotton, Rabbi Laurence Schlesinger of Temple Israel in Columbus and Reverend Grace Burton-Edwards of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus have been invited. Each will share a devotional and prayer in keeping with their faith practice. Music will be provided by organist, Talbotton native Tom Callier.

Please join us Thursday, May 1, 2025 at Historic Zion Church at 9am for Talbot County's observance of this special day.



The flowers for today's Easter service were given by:

Martha Dimon, in gratitude for her church family

Beth and Kin Brown, in memory of Connie Davis and Wallace Brown

Linda Pace, in memory of Benjamin E. Pace and in honor of Ben and Florence Pace

Rose and John Brent, in gratitude for St. Nicholas

Judy and Bob McCracken, to the glory of God

John and Charlotte Winsness, in memory of David Johnson

Connie Blackmon, in gratitude for her loving daughters and family

Carolyn Cox, in gratitude for St. Nicholas

William Morgan, in honor of Barbara & Bobo Morgan and Ann & Dexter Crotts

Steve Morse, in memory of William & Gloria Morse

Anonymous, in memory of David Johnson

Alex Garrett, in memory of George and Margaret Garrett

