

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023 • 10:45am

*Celebrating: The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III*

*Preaching: The Rev. Noah H. Evans*

**God loves you, no exceptions.**

**You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.**

St. Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities, and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity/expression, and with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

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**Thank you!**

**Prelude: Chaconne, from *Jesus Portraits, Set 1***

**Doug Starr**

**“Nicodemus, the one who first came to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes.” John 19:39**

**Welcome and Greetings**

**Opening Hymn: Welcome Happy Morning**

**Hymnal 179**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*People* Christ 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.*

**Song of Praise: He is Risen**

**Hymnal 180**

**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.*

**The 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."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 (Please join in singing)

Setting, Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)



- 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.

*Hallelujah!*  
*For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!*  
*Hallelujah!*  
*The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord*  
*And of His Christ, and of His Christ*  
*And He shall reign for ever and ever*  
*King of kings (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)*  
*And Lord of lords (Forever and ever! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)*  
*And He shall reign... Hallelujah!*

**The Gospel**  
**John 20:1-18**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

*Children are welcome to gather in the rear of the church to go to the Undercroft for Children's Chapel and will return at the Peace. Children may also remain in their pews.*

**The Sermon**  
The Rev. Noah H. Evans

**The 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 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

*The Prayers of the People are written by Gina Brownfield and Ginny Barnicoat. Respond with "God of rebirth, receive our prayer."*

*During the Easter Season, the Confession and Absolution are omitted.*

## The Peace

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

*People* And also with you.

## Announcements

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Thank you!

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Music: If ye then be risen with Christ**

**Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)**

**Verse anthem soloists: Regina Brinza and Annette Tierney, Sopranos; Emily Hastings-Keene, Mezzo Soprano**

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,  
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

**Presentation Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, vs. 4**

**Hymnal 390**

**The Great Thanksgiving, EOW Prayer 1**

*The people may stand or kneel.*

*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 our thanks and praise.

*Celebrant*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

*Celebrant and People, Hymnal S 128*

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.

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

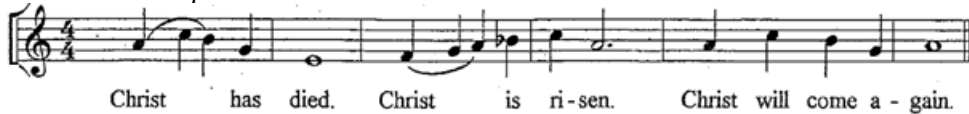
But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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*



*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

*Celebrant and People*



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

**The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

## **Agnus Dei**

**Hymnal S 165**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion. Please come forward to receive through the center aisle, returning through the side aisles. You are welcome to receive just the bread, or the bread and the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please take the bread in your hand and sip the wine from the chalice. For sanitary reasons, we ask you not to dip the host in the wine. If you would like communion brought to you, please let a greeter know.*

**Communion Music: I know that my Redeemer liveth, from *Messiah***  
**Emily Hastings Keene, Mezzo Soprano**

**G. F. Handel (1685-1759)**

*I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day, upon the earth  
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.  
For now is Christ risen from the dead  
The first fruits of them that sleep, of them that sleep.*

## **Post Communion Prayer—said together**

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen today**

**Hymnal 207**

## **Dismissal**

The worship is ended, the service begins.  
Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**Postlude: Toccata, from *Symphony for Organ No. 5***  
**Jonathan Wooding, Organ**

**Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)**

## **Music Notes**

The Easter proclamation: "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen, indeed!" What do these words mean, and how does Easter music amplify this emphatic proclamation? It should awaken every fiber of our human existence to that Grace.

"Chaconne," the prelude, is framed by John 19:39: "Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds." Standing alone, this passage lacks the dramatic response that Mary and the disciples had when they discovered an empty tomb. Taken in context to a previous passage that describes a long and intense intellectual discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus over the meaning of Jesus' declaration "You must be born again," Nicodemus was full of questions. With his hands full of burial spices confronted by an empty tomb, Nicodemus is now speechless.

"Chaconne" is a series of variations on a progression of seven chords. In three sections, it evolves from quietude to intensity as a thematic melody unfolds and threads its way toward a serene conclusion. The "Chaconne" chords signify a question: "What is eternal life?" An ascending melody signifies the answer: "The risen Lord!"

Our Easter hymns compel us to breathe deeply, for every note proclaims the triumph over death that Christ has won for us. Our hearts beat more quickly when we sing *Messiah's* Hallelujah Chorus just before the Gospel reading's discovery of an empty tomb. At the Offertory anthem, the choir sings Orlando Gibbons's "If ye then be risen with Christ," a setting of Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians that articulates the basis of the meaning of life: We have died with Christ. We now live in and with Christ!

We go into the world rejoicing – "Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia." – to the Widor Toccata, played this Easter by Jonathan Wooding. To see an empty tomb, Nicodemus was speechless. When the risen Lord Christ revealed himself to Mary Magdalene, she immediately proclaimed his resurrection.

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen, indeed!

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