



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
Transforming lives with the love of Jesus Christ



WELCOME
TO OUR EASTER CELEBRATION
April 4, 2021

Today's Officiant: The Scot McComas, Rector



We welcome you to worship

Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. After church activities with Children & Youth

Wednesday Schedule

- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday

WELCOME TO ALL THIS MORNING

When we enter, we sit quietly, speaking to God and preparing our hearts for worship.

Instrumental Prelude: *Lift High the Cross* - arr. Fred Bock

Please stand and join us in singing.

Those who wish to do so may bow in reverence as the cross passes to acknowledge the sign of our salvation – the mark we all carry from our baptism.

Processional Hymn: #207 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

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!

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

All: 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.

The Gloria

This is a song of praise to God found on page 356 in the Book of Common Prayer.

**All Say: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day summarizes the theme for today and "collects" our individual offerings into unified prayer that we might respond to the scriptures.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalms, hymns of ancient Israel, speak of the hopes, joys and fears of God's people.

The Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures forever.
- 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.

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."

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel: John 20:1-18

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The People are standing
as the Gospel is read.
This posture indicates
reverence and respect.*

Children's Sermon: Mandy Hodges, Director of Youth, Children & Family Ministries

The Sermon: The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector

Meditative Music: *Rise heart; thy Lord is risen*, Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Nicene Creed is the most ancient and important corporate profession of our faith.

We are joining ourselves to the great heritage of the holy (of God) catholic (universal) and apostolic (witnessing to the resurrection) church down through the centuries.

This heritage is vaster, richer and more mysterious than any one individual can understand, but we, as the members of the Body of Christ, share and commit ourselves to it and through it.

The Nicene Creed *Book of Common Prayer* p. 358

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 Easter Prayers of the People

We pray at all times in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18) We stand as a priestly people and offer intercessions for the whole world.

- Reader:** In joy and hope, let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, God of glory!"
- Reader:** That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That persecuted Christians and churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, and assist refugees and migrants to find safety and security, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may protect and encourage those in the medical field including doctors, nurses, medical researchers, first responders and anyone who puts their life on the line in order to assist with this public health crisis. We also pray for the victims of Covid-19 and their families and those impacted by this virus not only emotionally and physically but also spiritually, psychologically and economically, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may guide the leaders of the nations to promote peace and work for justice, and especially Donald our President and Doug our Governor, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may renew the Church to proclaim the truth boldly, fight error courageously, love generously, and work for the harmony and reconciliation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, and that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Reader:** That the risen Christ may receive into Paradise those who died in the faith of the Church and those whose faith is known to God alone, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** **Hear us, God of glory.**
- Officiant** God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- People:** **Amen.**

The word "Amen" "So be it" in Hebrew.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Lord's Prayer *Book of Common Prayer* p. 364

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

Officiant and People:

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 EASTER BLESSING

Officiant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: 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 for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Our Lord taught us a simple, heartfelt prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Recessional Hymn: # 208 *The strife is o'er, the battle done*



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.]



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

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

Postlude: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* - G.F. Handel

Our Easter Flower Dedications

In Loving Memory of:

Marty & Bob Christopher, by the Rafferty Family

Betty and Tom Jameson, by Gayle & Jeff Jameson

Theresa and Charles Stirling, by Gayle & Jeff Jameson

Our nephew, Isaac Craig Friday, by Dennis Combs & Scot McComas

Our son-in-law, Jason Martter, by Susie & Glenn Paulson

The Seiferth, Bliss and Vollmer families, by Carol Bliss

In Thanksgiving for:

Our wonderful family and baby Matthew finally being united at home with us.
And for all the love and prayers our family received, by Joyce & Jim Graves.

Our family - the Espinosas & Martters, by Susie & Glenn Paulson

