

The Third Sunday of



# EASTER



April 18th, 2021



St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church + Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve God and Neighbor

Opening Hymn  
*“The Day of Resurrection” verses 1&2*

*The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.*

*Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and, listening to his accents,  
may hear so calm and plain  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.*

Opening Acclamation

+ Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

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.**

### Pascha Nostrum

**Alleluia.** Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, the  
leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of  
sincerity and truth. **Alleluia.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he  
died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he  
lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and  
alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Alleluia.**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of  
those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came  
death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made  
alive. **Alleluia.**

### The Collect of the Day

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 First Reading**

A Reading from Acts.

When Peter saw this, he said to the people: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

*(Acts 3:12-19)*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

+ *Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

## The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Then the two told what had happened on the way to Emmaus, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

*(Luke 24:36-48)*

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

## The Sermon

### 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 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.

## Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
especially those on our prayer list and the suffering people of the world.  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For those serving in the armed forces, those wounded or recovering in veterans' hospitals, those serving in combat and those serving in safety.  
**For the peace and protection of God.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Greg our Bishop, David, Rob, and Doug our clergy, and for all bishops and other ministers;



**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For our schools, scouts, and all of the children and youth of our parish.

**For your grace and their ever growing knowledge and love of you.**

For our parish family.

**Bind us together and draw us always closer to you.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,**

to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with repentance and faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

### The Announcements

Sunday services at 9am, 10am, and 11am with a Wednesday morning service at 9am. Adult Sunday School at 10am.

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

Psalm 4:1

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

### The Offertory

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

*I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,*

*in awe and wonder to recall,  
his life laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.*

## The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,  
And of thine own have we given thee.

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

## Eucharistic Prayer A

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 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:

**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.**

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:

**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 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**

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

## The Invitation

These are the Gifts of God for you, the People of God., take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread and Wine.

*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
we see and praise him here.*

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

Anniversaries This Week:

Rick and Marty Tallent, Phillip and Elizabeth Koshi

Birthdays This Week:

Bill Brink, Roger Statzer, Juliana Walker, Nathan Irwin

**Birthday Prayer**

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

*“The Day of Resurrection” verse 3*

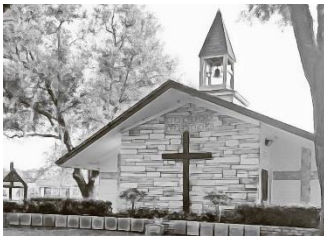
*Now let the heavens be joyful,  
let earth her song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,*

*for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.*  
The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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