

**Fourth Saturday of Easter**  
**The Holy Eucharist Rite Two Eucharistic Prayer A**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2026, 5:15 p.m.**

**Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

**Collect for Purity (BCP p. 355)**

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.*

**Opening Anthem (BCP p. 356)**

**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.**

**The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 225)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**First Reading:**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47).

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)**

**Second Reading:**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (2:19-25).

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because

Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel:**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:1-10).

*(Glory to you, Lord Christ).*

[Jesus said,] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

*The Rev. Canon Melinda M. Artman*

### **The Nicene Creed (BCP 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 Prayers of the People** (*from Hear Our Prayer p. 56*).

Hear us Lord as we lift our voices in common cause saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church universal, that the circumstances of this world will lead us into new ways of being the good dream of God; a body of people who love and serve God and neighbor. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor, the hungry and the marginalized and for those whose life's work is to help them with basic needs and the ability to thrive. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our unique situations and needs. For health, for the safety and happiness of our families, for our coworkers, friends, neighbors. We pray especially for those things that bring us fear or anxiety, asking that we might shed our concerns and be at peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer sickness or disability, that they might know healing and wholeness. Especially we pray for Brenda, Hildegard, Brandon, Zach, Dawn, Bobby, Janice, Jason, Kelly, Kaitlyn, Denise, Bruce, Kristina, Debbie, Berry, Jake, Janice, Kathy, Susan, Tim, Martha, Cindy, Helen, Ronald, Sharon, Gene, Tom, Sally, Rod, Renee, Ernie, Lara, Debbie, Richard, Shirley, and Julia. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the prayers from our prayer wall, ....for what else shall we pray? Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving for this life and, in faith, for the life to come. Bless the dying with your grace and welcome. We remember especially Ruth, Helen, and Audrey. Grant us also the hope of heavenly reunion in the age to come. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Concluding Collect:**

God of love; you know our needs greater than we know them ourselves; hear us and answer us as you have always done and clothe us in your loving grace that we might fully be your Son's continuing work in the world; and all this through Christ. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and always. **Amen.**

*(During the Great 40 Days of Easter the confession and absolution are omitted from this part of the service.)*

### **The Peace (BCP p. 360)**

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

*People*            And also with you.

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

#### **Sursum Corda (BCP p. 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.**

#### **Proper Preface (BCP p. 361)**

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 (BCP p. 362)**

**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.**

**Words of Institution (BCP p. 362)**

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.*

**The Lord's Prayer (BCP p. 364)**

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **Fraction Anthem (BCP p. 364)**

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

#### **Invitation (BCP p. 364)**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **Distribution (BCP p. 365)**

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

#### **Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)**

Let us pray.

**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.**

#### **Easter Blessing (*Book of Occasional Services p. 26*)**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**Dismissal (BCP p. 366)**

The service is done, but our work continues. Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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