

**Fourth Saturday of Easter**  
**The Holy Eucharist Rite Two Eucharistic Prayer A**  
**Saturday, May 2, 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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the

way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **First Reading:**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:56-60).

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit (*Ps. 31:5*)

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

**15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your lovingkindness save me.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)**

### **Second Reading:**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (2:2-10).

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel:**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:1-14).

*(Glory to you, Lord Christ).*

[Jesus told his disciples,] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so

that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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. 57*).

*All remain standing as they are able.*

Steadfast God, you have never abandoned your promise to be with your people, be present to us now and hear us as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Imbue your church with the courage of Stephen, that it may hold steadfast to Christ and uphold always your command to love one another. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to those in authority in our lives that they may not be seduced by the expedient or the popular, but strive always to lead us towards true safety, seeking the welfare of all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden us to share our faith with confidence through our actions and choices, and especially in our mercy to those in need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us and sustain us as we forge new ways of life to contend with the conflicts of the world and climate change and help us to hold onto the power of your promises even and especially when we feel hopeless. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let your healing presence be known to all who suffer from any trouble, remembering especially Brenda, Hildegard, Brandon, Zach, Dawn, Bobby, Janice, Jason, Kelly, Kaitlyn, Denise, Bruce, Kristina, Debbie, Berry, Jake, and Janice. Bring wholeness to all that is broken in our lives and in our world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant peace to the dead and dying, remembering especially John, Andrew, Michelle, Gary, Ray, and Thomas. Comfort to those who mourn or grieve; let the light of your love dispel the darkness in our hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Concluding Collect:**

Most glorious God, you have strengthened and sustained your people since first you called Abram to follow you. Lift us up, we pray, and help us to be the people we were created to be that we might fulfill your dream for our human family. **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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