

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer Rite II

Welcome & Announcements

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

Sung by the Holy Apostles Choir

Opening Hymn: The King of Love

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Opening Sentence

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Presider Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pascha Nostrum & Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Presider Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Christ our Passover read in unison

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.

Psalm 23 **read in unison**

The Lord is my shepherd; *
 I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures *
 and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul *
 and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
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.
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.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Read by

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 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. 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.

 “He committed no sin,
 and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

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. 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. 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Gospel of John

Read by Deacon John Musco

Jesus said, "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Kimberlee Auletta

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you**

Presider Let us pray.

In this time of bewilderment and fear, we ask you to give us the courage to take care of one another as Jesus did. For those who are ill, especially those who are frightened and alone, for those who cannot access healthcare, for those who are homeless and lost; Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

In the midst of our sadness and grief, we ask you to give us words to comfort one another. For those who are dying, and for those who have already died from this virus, for those who care for them and for those with no one to care for them; Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

In the midst of our own anxiety, we ask for the courage to support one another as you would. For those who are poor, hungry, and homeless; for those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future; for our government and financial institutions and those who lead them; Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

In the midst of our struggle to ensure a healthy future for all people, we ask you to give us the hope that surpasses our current understanding. For healthcare workers, spiritual leaders and our faith communities, for artists and poets, for prophets and teachers; Risen Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Remembering that you have promised to hear our prayers, we offer our intercessions and thanksgivings:

*** we will unmute all for intercessions. Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

The Lord's Prayer sung by all

Collect of the Day

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.*

Said in unison

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Benediction

Presider 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.
Amen.

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. Amen.

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. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: God is Love

God is Love, let heaven adore him: God is Love, let earth rejoice:

Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.

God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above,

God who breathes through all creation God is Love eternal Love.

God is Love, and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,

God's eternal loving kindness guides us through our earthly strife.

Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;

God is Love, so Love for ever o'er the universe must reign.

Parting Hymn

May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless you and keep you forever

Bind your heart to his heard, with a bond that nothing can sever

Give you light on the uphill road, and courage in every endeavor

May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless you and keep you forever.