

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

The service begins on page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer

Prelude: Christ is arisen Anton W. Leupold
Processional: Jesus Christ is Risen Today Hymnal # 207

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for Purity *in unison*

**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.**

Hymn of Praise This is the feast Hymnal # 417

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you... **and also with you**

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. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Introduction

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

God's final word is always "Yes." Because God's love is everlasting, God always remains faithful. Ancient Israel is assured that it will be rebuilt and have plentiful crops. The people of God too will ultimately be reunited.

¹At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

²Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword and found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest,

³the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built,
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria;
the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:
"Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

The Word of the Lord...**thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118 Confitemini Domino

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

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

Second Reading – Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He

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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” The Word of the Lord...**thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Joy in the morning

Natalie Sleeth

Gospel: John 20:1-18

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹Early 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. ²So 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord...**praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed *in unison*

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

In the power of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the whole bright earth, so lovingly created yet so compassionately redeemed, that it may speak again of the glory and majesty of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations and peoples of the earth, to whom God shows no partiality, that all may be transformed by mercy to live together in hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the holy church, whose life is hid with Christ in God, that in all its diversity, witness may be made to the one Lord, one faith, one baptism, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all in places of authority, for whom Christ was put to death and was raised, that they may be led to govern with equity and justice, bringing life to those in the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have been baptized and given the garments of light, that they, with the whole church, may be witnesses to the gospel in daily life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all captives, prisoners, and those condemned to die, with whom the Holy One shares suffering and abandonment, that they find strength, freedom, and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or soul, for whom Christ is risen with healing in His power, that they may be made comforted, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died, and all who grieve, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find light perpetual and blessed assurance, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all gathered in this assembly, that we, like Mary and Peter and John, may see the tomb empty, and joyfully believing, walk in newness of life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the risen presence of our Lord, we commend all for who we pray and also ourselves to Christ, to whom we give laud and praise now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Offertory— please stand as the bread and wine are brought forth, as the communion gifts are symbolically from the people for God, and again as the gifts of the people's treasure is presented for the growth of the kingdom. The doxology is sung as the recognition that all we have comes from God.

Offertory music: Christ the Lord is Risen today

Robert Powell

The Doxology is sung as the offering comes forward

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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.**

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:

The Sanctus

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:

Celebrant and People

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 forever. **AMEN.**

As now as our Savior has taught us, we now pray: *in unison*

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 Fraction and the invitation to Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

After communion:

A prayer for those worshipping online:

Spiritual Communion Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer *(unison)*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Final Blessing

Recessional: Alleluia, The Strife is over

Hymnal # 208

Postlude: Look ye saints, the sight is glorious

Flower dedications:

Flowers are given by Dr. James and Lori Vargo in memory of Dr. John & Margaret Vargo, Dr. Charlie & Ann Vargo Rogers, Lenox Profitt, Jess & Nadine Foster, Martha Rucker, Dr. Paul & Mabs Loflin, Dr. Richard & Betty Starr, Dr. Ed & Gene Neil

Flowers are given by Dr. James and Lori Vargo in thanksgiving for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Mother Susan & Parr Claytor, Dr. Chris & Chelsea Vargo Zsoldos, Christian & Kyleigh Vargo and baby Vargo (arriving later this month), Roberta Profitt and Bethany Profitt

Flowers are given by Douglas Willis in memory of John A. & Harriet P. Willis

Flowers are given by Peggy Cantley in thanksgiving for her children Jim and Anna

Flowers are given by Matthew Brown and Brian MacAulay in memory of their loving parents: Malcolm "Mac" & Marion Johnson MacAulay, Robert "Bob" & Thelma Hildebrand Brown, Betty Canterbury Brown and Joan Wright Brown

Flowers are given by Matthew Brown and Brian MacAulay in memory of The Rev. Canon Donald Vinson and The Rev. Kent Higgins

Flowers are given by Nancy Meador in memory of Henry, Claire, and Richard Klein

Flowers are given by Nancy Meador in thanksgiving for Katherine and her grandchildren

Flowers are given by Mother Susan and Parr Claytor in thanksgiving for the parish family of St. Stephen's