

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
& AFRICAN PALMS USA**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 25, 2021

MORNING PRAYER



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DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Organ Music: The King of Love My Shepherd Is Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

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

Opening Hymn 377

All people that on earth do dwell

Unison or harmony

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his
4 For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for
*5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and

1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
4 ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel

1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - jice.
2 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
3 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
4 stood, and shall from age to age en - - dure.
5 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - - more.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant *Lord, open our lips.*

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

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

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

Christ our Passover 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 in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 23

- 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 for ever.

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

The Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the

name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Song of Moses Cantemus Domino

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *

the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *

the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *

the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *

Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *

the finest of those who bear armor have been

drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *

they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *

your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *

who is like you, glorious in holiness,

awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

**You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to
your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.**

A reading from 1 John (3:16-24)

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God *Gloria in excelsis*

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.**

A reading from the Gospel according to John (10:11-18)

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay

down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

People **The Word of the Lord.**
 Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

Suffrages A

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The 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.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those
in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

We take a moment now to offer prayers for those who are sharing in the Eucharist within their homes

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please take a moment to reverently consume the Host, and if you are with family perhaps give the Host to each other with the words "The Body of Christ."

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed be the God of all creation

People For in your goodness you make all things new.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open wide your hand and give of your goodness to all things living: Renew the face of the earth and increase the sustainable harvests of the world, that the land may bring forth enough for all, and your people may share justly and give honor to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lover of all you have made: Protect and sustain the creatures of our local habitat. Increase their well- being, watch over them with love, and give us wisdom to honor our kinship with them; through Jesus Christ, the first- born of all creation. **Amen.**

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water. Bless the waters on the ground and under the ground, and the waters that fall from the sky, that this garden may flourish and bear good fruit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

God, who alone provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, you have taught us to ask of you our daily bread: Bless the sowing of the seed this year, grant fertility to the soil, and strengthen the hands of the gardeners who till it, that through their labor your people may be nourished; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. **Amen.**

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant in your name, and grant that working late and early, we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God, you have blessed our plowing and preparing of the ground: Protect what we plant and bring it to maturity, that we and others may enjoy a fruitful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Sustainer. **Amen.**

We ask you to hallow these planters, this compost, this dirt, these seedlings and these seeds, and ask that wherever they are spread and they are planted, you will add your blessing and protection. Support and make fruitful what we grow; strengthen and uphold all those who work to tend your creation; nourish in mind, body, and soul those who are fed by this crop, make us generous with your abundant harvest, sharing with neighbors known and unknown to us, that our care for your earth and your creations may give witness to your love and justice; in the name of the Creator, Word, and Spirit. **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.**

Alleluia, alleluia, Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Hymn 708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
 2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
 learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
 with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Organ Music: Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Roy Brunner (b. 1945)