

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Waretown, NJ**  
**The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two**  
**Sunday, April 18, 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude** *(Remain Seated)*

**Processional** *(Stand)*

**The Word of God**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

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

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

**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**

**Collect**

*Celebrant* The LORD be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

**First Lesson: A Reading from Acts 3:12-19**

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 4**

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;\*  
You set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;\*  
How long will you worship dumb idols  
And run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;\*  
When I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

- 4 Tremble, then, do not sin;\*  
     Speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices\*  
     And put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”\*  
     Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,\*  
     More than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;\*  
     For only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

## Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

## Gradual Hymn

### The Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ, according to John.

*People*   **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things.

*Celebrant*           The Gospel of the LORD.  
*People*             **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

### The Nicene Creed *(all stand)*

*Celebrant and People*  
**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, Form VI**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life.

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation and the world;

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation.

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop and for William our Bishop; and  
for all bishops and other ministers;

*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We exalt you, O God, our King;

*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your  
eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins:

*Minister and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father: in your compassion  
forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in  
newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the  
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Peace** *(all stand)*

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

**And also with you.**

## Offertory Hymn

### The Great Thanksgiving -- Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and 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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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**

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Silence*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Bread is given to the communicants with these words*

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

## **The Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

## **Blessing & Prayers**

### **Announcements**

### **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant*

Go in peace to love and serve the LORD.

Alleluia, Alleluia

*People*

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia**

### **Postlude**