

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Communion - April 7, 2024**  
**Rev Robert Morrison, Presider and Celebrant**  
**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

***It is the ancient tradition of the Church not to say the Prayer of Confession during the Eastern Season.***



**Prelude** *(Without music, use this time for quiet meditation.)*

**Opening Hymn #206** *“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”*

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

**Collect for Purity:** *Presider Let us pray together*

***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.***

**Gloria** *(say together) 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.***

**Presider** The Lord be with you.

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

**The Collect of the Day:** ***Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.***

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

**The First Lesson is a Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was

upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

**Psalm 133** *Ecce, quam bonum (Say Together)*

**<sup>1</sup> Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \***  
**when brethren live together in unity!**

**<sup>2</sup> It is like fine oil upon the head \***  
**that runs down upon the beard,**

**<sup>3</sup> Upon the beard of Aaron, \***  
**and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**

**<sup>4</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon \***  
**that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

**<sup>5</sup> For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \***  
**life for evermore.**

**The Second Lesson is a Reading from the First Letter of John 1:1-2:2**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

**Gospel Hymn #209** *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"*

Deacon **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 20:19-31**  
**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands

and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

- Deacon           The Gospel of the Lord.
- People           ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## The Sermon

Rev Robert Morrison

*silence for reflection*

## ***The Nicene' Creed (let us say together) (BCP p.358)***

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.***

## **Prayers of the People** – *Special Bid Your Prayers for Easter 2024*

PotP Leader

Reader: Trusting in the power of God that raised Christ from the dead, we pray now for the needs and hopes of the world, the Church, and our own hearts.

Reader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Diana, our Bishop, and for leaders of local churches everywhere, that their lives may model and proclaim Resurrection joy, peace, and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the leaders of our country, that the laws they create may embody God's vision of a world remade and refashioned on justice and equity for all, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For Christians around the world, that we may realize our connectedness as the family of God and the body of the resurrected Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For an end to wars, violence, oppression and anarchy, especially in Ukraine, Russia, the Holy Land, and Haiti—and for the peace of the risen Christ to be established in all corners of our world, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who are ill, and for those nearing the end of their earthly life (pause), that they may feel the tender and loving presence of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed whose faith is known to God alone (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the cares and concerns of our own hearts, and for those who have commended themselves to our prayers (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Eternal God, may our hearts be filled with Easter joy as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Help us, his followers, to bring healing to the human spirit, joy to places of sadness, and hope to hearts that are in despair.

We ask all of this in His name.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Peace**

- *Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- *People*      **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **The Liturgy of the Table**

#### **The Offertory Sentence;**

Presider: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering & sacrifice to God.

**Hymn of Presentation 'Doxology** (sing to the tune: "Old One Hundredth")

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above you heavenly hosts:***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

### **The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A BCP p. 361**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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:

*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; Hosanna in the highest.***

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.***

### The Lord's Prayer (*let us say together*)

***Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your 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 and deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
now and forever. Amen.***

### The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***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.

### Communion Hymn

*Instrumental*

### Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (*we pray together*)

***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.***

### Prayer for St. Martin's (*let us pray together*)

***God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.***

### Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travelling Mercies

#### Announcements

#### Easter Blessings

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 this day and for ever. . **Amen.**

#### Closing Hymn #470

*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

**Dismissal** Let us go into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
**People** ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!***