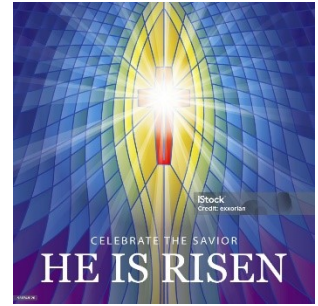


The 5th Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion - April 28, 2024
Rev Robert Morrison, Presider and Celebrant
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
*It is the ancient tradition of the Church not to say the Prayer of
Confession during the Easter Season.*



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

Opening Hymn #379 "God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him"

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 God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb, silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people;
- **People Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30 Deus, Deus meus (Say Together)

***24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.***

***25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
“May your heart live for ever!”***

***26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.***

***27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.***

***28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.***

***29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.***

***30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.***

The Second Lesson is a Reading from the First Letter of John 4:7-211

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

- Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people;
- **People Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn #455 *"O Love of God, How Strong and True"*

Deacon **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-8**

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

- 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 Your Son's' 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 #542

"Christ Is the World's True Light"

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