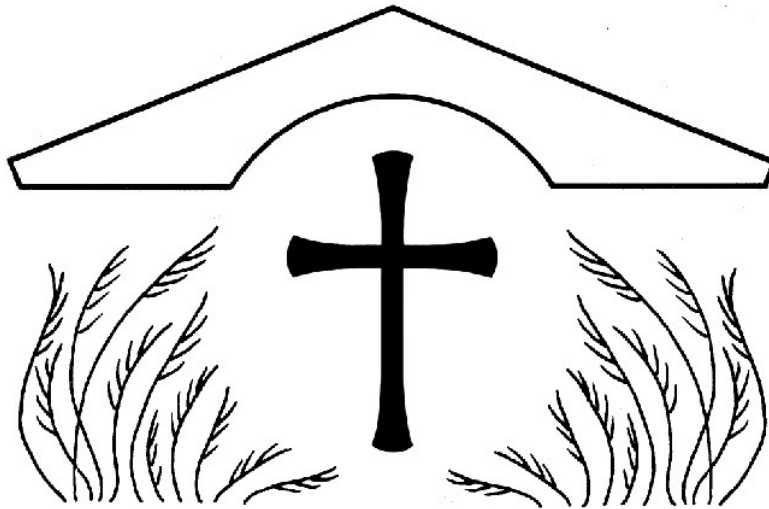


# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Second Sunday of Easter**

April 7, 2024



Ministers

Rector

Deacon

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Minister of Music

Cantor

Administrative Assistant

The People of the Parish

The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris

The Rev. Kate Sefton

Jean Farmer

Miles McKenzie

Kristina Ibarra

Jun Kim

## The Gathering of the Community

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

205 Good Christians all, Rejoice and Sing

*please stand*

Presider 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.**

### GLORIA



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



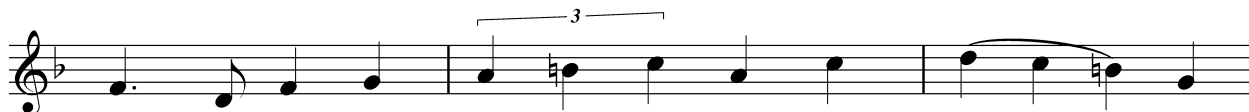
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, you break through the locks of gated communities and hardened hearts: accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty and, by your Spirit's gentle touch, make us a people forgiven and forgiving; through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace. **Amen.**

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.

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

## PSALM 133



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- 1     **Oh, how good and pleasant it *is*, \***  
       **when kindred live together in *unity*!**
- 2     **It is like fine oil upon the *head* \***  
       **that runs down upon the *beard*,**
- 3     **Upon the beard of *Aaron*, \***  
       **and runs down upon the collar of his *robe*.**
- 4     **It is like the dew of *Hermon* \***  
       **that falls upon the hills of *Zion*.**
- 5     **For there has God ordained the *blessing*: \***  
       **life for ever-*more*.**

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

*please stand*

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Kate Sefton

*please be seated*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon*

HYMN

You Walk With Us

*please stand*

**You walk with us through the dusk,  
You walk with us through the dawn,  
You walk with us through our doubt,  
You are with us in our disbelief.**

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your love, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your love, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way.  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your love, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
We pray for all in need of healing, especially...  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your love, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you.  
We especially remember those we now name...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your love, hear us,**  
**accept our prayers, and be with us always.**  
**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

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.**

## PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you. **And also with you. Alleluia.**

*You are invited to pass the peace  
distanced and respectfully.*



# The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*please be seated*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Celtic Alleluia

*please stand*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

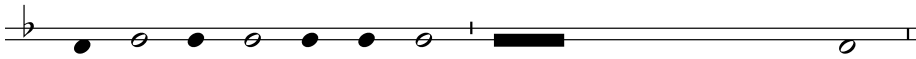
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER D

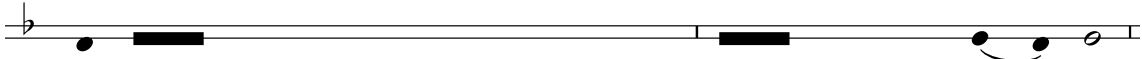
- Presider The Lord be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Presider Lift up your hearts.  
People **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord.  
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

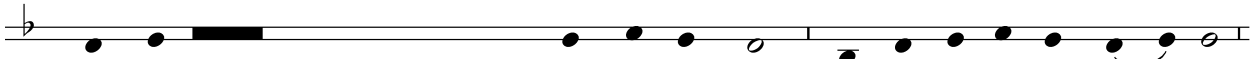
Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



hea - ven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Mozarabic chant, ca 8th cent.; adapt. Howard E. Galley (1929-1993). Copyright © 1985 Howard E. Galley, Jr.

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We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, St. Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Presider Wherever you are on your journey of faith,

People **You are welcome at this table.**

Presider 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.

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. You are invited to come forward when the ushers indicate and stand or kneel at the communion rail. Please extend your hands together to receive the bread. Our bread is gluten free. To receive the chalice, please help guide it to your lips. We are no longer intincting (dipping the bread). If you do not wish to receive the chalice, cross your arms and the chalice bearer will still say the words but not expect you to sip. If you prefer not to receive either bread or wine and would like a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### We Walk by Faith

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;  
2. We may not touch His hands and side,  
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
4. That, when our life of faith is done;

1. no gracious words we hear from Him who  
2. nor follow where He trod; but in His  
3. and may our faith a bound, to call on  
4. in realms of clear er light, we may be -

1. spoke as none e'er spoke; but we be -  
 2. prom - ise we re - joice, and cry, "My  
 3. you when you are near, and seek where  
 4. hold you as you are, with full and

1.,2.,3. 4.

1. lieve — Him near.  
 2. Lord — and God!"  
 3. you — are found.  
 4. end - less sight.

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COMMUNION HYMN

178 Alleluia, alleluia

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*please stand*

**Risen Christ,  
 whom we have seen with our eyes  
 and touched with our hands;  
 the word of life  
 in whom our joy is complete:  
 send us out  
 to declare your truth,  
 your unshakable faith  
 in the world you love. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,  
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL HYMN      490 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light      *please stand*

## DISMISSAL

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia,  
alleluia.

People      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



