

Grace Episcopal Church
Easter Day
April 12, 2020



(all stand, it is customary to bow as the processional cross passes by)

On this Easter morning the heavenly choirs of angels rejoice, the earth exults and mother church is glad. Now that our Lenten observance is over, let us be mindful of the solemn promises and vows of our Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic church, that we celebrating the resurrection with joy, may bring the light of Christ into the world.

The Procession

Welcome, happy morning! **H 179**

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 you holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis (S280)

**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.**

The Collect of the Day (standing)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(the people are seated as readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, and New Testament are read)

The First Lesson

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter began to speak to the gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."(10:34-43)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; * his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, * His mercy endures for ever."

The Lord is my strength and my song, * and he has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory * in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! * the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, * and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, * but he did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; * I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord; * he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected * has become the chief corner stone.

This is the Lord's doing, * and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted; * we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Second Lesson

Reader: A reading from Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (3:1-4)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence (standing) *Jesus Christ is risen today* **H 207**

The Holy Gospel

(the people remain standing. It is customary to make the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart during the Gospel announcement)

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

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the

other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. (20:1-18)

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

The Sermon *(seated)*

(silence follows the sermon)

The Nicene Creed

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Dan, Johnny, Gloria, Tasha, Joey, Keith, Chandler, Donna, Mitch, Jeanette, Una, Steven, Linda, Marcia, Larry, Alyssa, Jim, Tina, Greg, Denny, Carol, Vicky, Tristan, Rachel, Freddy, James and family, Tifani and Leland, Faye, Jerry, Jackie, Teresa, Shaun, Norene, Sandra, C.J., Andrea, Lonnie, Allen, Michelle, John, Sam, Frances, Bill, David, Jean, Zachary, Judy, Diane, Lauren, Barb, and Shary, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially John, Beth, Linda, Guy, Janiece, Bobbie, Maurice, and Pat, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Greetings and Notices

The Offertory The Choir This joyful Eastertide
(words by George R. Woodard,; melody: Psalmen, 1685)

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

**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 Closing Prayer

Holy Jesus, our Savior and redeemer, you come to us whenever we come together in your name. You bring us together, friend and stranger, young and old, rich and poor, wise and foolish, devout and sceptic, to open our eyes to you, present in the heart of our community. As we journey on, may we be open to receive the unexpected gift of your love from others and may your love overflow in us to be shared with others we encounter. Send us out with good news on our lips and renewed hope in our hearts, in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Blessing

God of every encounter, open our eyes to your presence among us, in the meeting of strangers, in the sharing of scriptures, in the gift of hospitality, in the breaking of bread. Bless us with eyes to recognize you, with hearts to burn within us, and with confidence to share you resurrection life. **Amen.**

The Procession *Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks* **H 178**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Bishop of Georgia
The Right Reverend Scott Benhase

The Reverend Kit H. Brinson, Rector

Mr. Mike Taylor, Musician and Choir Master

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of James M. and Mary Brown, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dabbs by Mary and Jim Brown.