

*Grace Episcopal Church  
401 Pendleton Street  
Waycross, Georgia 31501*



**Morning Prayer  
The Sundays of Easter**

May 3, 2020

*The Right Rev. Scott Benhase,  
10th Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia*

*The Rev. Kit Brinson, Rector  
Mike Taylor, Church Musician and Choir Director*

**The Hymn**

*The King of love, my Shepherd is*

**H 645**

**The Invitatory**

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

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

**People: Come let us adore him.**

**Christ our Passover** (*Said in unison*)

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \***

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

**Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \***

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \***

**death no longer has dominion over him.**

**The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \***

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

**So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \***

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead, \***

**the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

**For since by a man came death, \***

**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**

**For as in Adam all die, \* so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**A Reading from Acts (2:42-47)**

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by

the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.       The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd; \* I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \* and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \* and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \* for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \* and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **A Reading from First Peter (2:19-25)**

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have

been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.  
The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God**

**The First Song of Isaiah** (*Sung*)

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \*** (*chorus*)  
**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**  
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***  
**and he will be my Savior.**  
**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***  
**from the springs of salvation.**  
**And on that day you shall say, \***  
**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**  
**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***  
**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**  
**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***  
**and this is known in all the world.**  
**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***  
**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**A Reading from the Gospel of John** (10:1-10)

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

**The Homily**     Rev. Kit Brinson

**The Apostles' Creed**    *Officiant and People together, all standing*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers**

*Officiant*    The Lord be with you. *People*     **And also with you.**

*Officiant*    Let us pray.

**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 Suffrages - A**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord; **R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness; **R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care; **R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth; **R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten; **R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God; **R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for the Church**

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Grace**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "**Lord, have mercy.**"

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and Bishop Elect, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are affected by the corona virus and all who care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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, 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 Joe, 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.**

**The General Thanksgiving** (*Officiant and People*)

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

**The Closing Hymn**      *My Shepherd will supply my need*      **H 664**



## *Fourth Sunday of Easter Prayers*

### *Intercessions for the Christian People*

*Gathered in the care of the Good Shepherd and guardian of our souls, in trust, let us pray for the church and the world, saying, Lord, have mercy.*

*For all who serve the holy church of God, who serve tables and who preach and pray, who shepherd the lost and care for those in need, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For all who are persecuted for the gospel, for all who have been martyred for their witness to the truth, for all in lonely places who rejoice in the hope of the resurrection, and for the blessed community of the saints, living and dead, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For all in the world who care for the sick, the dying, the hungry and the destitute, the mentally ill and the deformed, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For victims of rage and sudden violence, especially for abused children and spouses, for political prisoners, victims of extortion, of murder, and of natural catastrophe, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For all gathered here at this time and our specific needs, that we may come to receive abundant life at God's hand, and at the last, to rest in Christ's shepherding love, let us pray to the Lord.*

*Private intercessions are offered.....*

*O Loving God, we commend to your mercy all who have died and pray that we and all your saints may share in your eternal dominion. Enable us to know that by Christ's wounds we have been healed, and that by the power of his risen and Spirit-giving life, we are empowered to serve you all our days. We pray through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.*