

**St. Paul's**  
**Episcopal Church**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 25, 2021**



**9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

*This bulletin accompanies our service on the Zoom platform. To link to the service go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647333282?pwd=WmtlR3ppamVET1dhNHxU0JlVZUZmQT09> or call 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID:647 333 282; passcode 173902).*

*Everything you need to participate is incorporated here. We encourage you to follow, say the responses, and allow yourself to be pulled closer to God.*

**Welcome.**

*We are delighted you are joining us for worship today.*

*Our celebration of Easter continues, with a service including hymns and chanting. Christ is risen indeed!*

*As we gather, you are invited to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

**First, enjoy three deep breaths**

- *The first one to help you fully arrive in your body,*
- *The second one to clear your mind so you may be present to yourself and others,*
- *The third one to open your heart and welcome the Holy Spirit to engage you*

**Second, select one of these three entries into worship**

*Notice whichever one you feel drawn to... then do what you're invited to do with it*

*Are you hopeful today?*

- *Pray a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the beacon of hope drawing you forward.*

*Are you looking for light today?*

- *Pray for the light of Christ to illumine you especially this morning, and also to illumine the world.*

*Are you in need of joy this morning?*

- *Pray that God would show you the simple, profound joys that surround you now.*

**Third, be still until worship begins**

*Empty your hands,*

*Close your eyes,*

*Breathe deeply and slowly,*

*Empty your mind.*

*Let sounds pass by you.*

*Find interest only in silent waiting upon God.*

*Join in singing*

**Hymnal p. 205** Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

*Gelobt sei Gott*

**1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2 The Lord of life is ris'n today;  
Sing songs of life along his way;  
let all the earth rejoice and say:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5 To God the Father, God the Son,  
To God the Spirit, always One,  
we sing for life in us begun:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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*The Celebrant says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*The Celebrant says the* **Collect for Purity**

*The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355*

*All say the* **Gloria**

**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.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 Reading from the Book of Acts***Acts 4:5-12*

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

*Read by all*

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

**A Reading from the First Letter of John***1 John 3:16-24*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 10:11-18

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

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

The Rev. Sam Smith

## Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

*All stand and together say*

**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 Form III

BCP p. 387

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Doug, our Bishop; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam, our Rector; Jane our Priest Associate; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Joseph, our President; Charlie, our Governor; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

We remember especially those on our parish prayer list. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We remember those who have died, especially those we name now either silently or aloud. Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The Intercessor will offer various prayers on behalf of the community, after which others may add their own petitions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud. The Celebrant then adds a concluding Collect.*

### The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Welcome and Announcements

*The people remain standing for the*

**Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are: The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

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.



*Celebrant*

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*As Communion is distributed to the altar party, you may want to pray this prayer*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*BCP p. 365*

**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.**

## Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Join in singing*

**Hymnal p. 708** Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Sicilian Mariners

**1** Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us;  
For our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

**2** Early let us seek thy favor,  
early let us learn thy will;  
do thou Lord, our only Savior  
with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us; love us still.

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## Sending Forth

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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*Many thanks to the musicians of Grace Church of the Southern Berkshires for the hymn recordings for today's service.*

*Following the service, please remain online for coffee hour.*

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### Service Schedule

**Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - online via Zoom**

**Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers - online via Zoom**

*For more information on connecting to worship, please visit our website: [www.stpaulsstockbridge.org](http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.org)*

**Rector:** The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, [rector@stpaulsstockbridge.org](mailto:rector@stpaulsstockbridge.org)

*Father Sam's office hours are by appointment.*

*Please call the rectory: 298-7001.*

**Priest Associate:** The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman

**Vergers:** Darryl Lafferty

**Office Administrator:** Gretchen Fairfield, [office@stpaulsstockbridge.org](mailto:office@stpaulsstockbridge.org)

*In this time of the pandemic Gretchen is not usually working in person in the office.*

*Call the church office or email and she will get back to you promptly.*

### Vestry

**Sr. Warden:** Matt Fillio, 822-3759

**Jr. Warden:** Jorja Marsden, 298-3945

Sebastian Bonner, *Clerk*; John Davies, *Treasurer*; Martha Bodine; Diane Dillon; Diana French; Christopher Johnson; Duncan Pollock; Tom Skakel; Carl Sprague

**St. Paul's Children's Center:** Lisa Kane, Director, 298-4639

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