



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
SAINT MATTHEW
Welcoming All Growing in God
Serving Our Neighbor

ORDER OF WORSHIP
**The Fourth Sunday
of Easter**

April 21, 2024
8:00 & 10:30 am

Welcome to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

All are welcome here. Our liturgy is a celebration of God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ. All are welcome to share in Jesus' sacred meal of communion.

(Out of courtesy, please silence all cell phones.) Before the liturgy, in silence, talk to God. During the liturgy, let God speak to you. After the liturgy, speak to one another. Please gather in silence for a prayerful reflection.

Prelude
Greeting

Processional #518 The Hymnal 1982
Christ is made the sure foundation *(10:30 only)*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presiding-Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

All 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 "Glory to God" *(8:00 spoken 10:30 Sung)*
S-280, The Hymnal 1982

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.

The Prayer of the Day

Presiding-Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presiding-Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord of the sheepfold, whose love is not for hire, who calls to himself the victims of the world: we thank you that Christ laid down his life for us when we could not help ourselves; in the weakness of his love give us strength to work for peace in the world he came to serve, through Jesus Christ, the good shepherd.

People Amen

First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

(Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.)

The next day their 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.'

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Lector The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 23. We will read the psalm responsively by whole verse. The congregations part is printed in bold.)

- 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.**

Second Lesson

1 John 3: 16-24

(Lector A reading from the first letter of John.)

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.

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

Gradual "Christ Is Risen From the Dead"
#817, Wonder, Love, & Praise (*sung 3 times 10:30*)

The Gospel

John 10: 11-18

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

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

'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.'

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily Deacon Kim Crecca

The Nicene Creed

(BCP 358)

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

Intercessor The Good Shepherd gave his life so that we could live with him forever. In this joy we offer our prayers, as we respond to each petition by saying, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

Intercessor That we may contemplate upon the great mysteries of faith; Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again; and move more deeply into God's profound desire for eternal fellowship with all humanity; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Intercessor That our actions toward our neighbors, whether poor or rich, or undeserving, may reflect God's commandment of love; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Intercessor In thanksgiving for lay leaders in our churches who give sacrificially of time and talent so that the Church may be a true fellowship of believers; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Intercessor For those who are ill, that they may find relief from their suffering, and for those whose medical and social skills assist in the work of healing, that they may have patience and wisdom; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Intercessor In thanksgiving for those who till the soil, harvest the crops, tend farm animals, and join the long chain of workers by whose hands we are fed; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Intercessor For those who have departed this life in the faith and fear of the Lord, that they may join the company of the saints in light; let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

All We rejoice that we are created in your image. Free us from racism and any other prejudice that defiles us. May the church at all time reveal your glory and lead many to the glorious liberty that is for the children of God. Hear us, O risen Christ.

Intercessor Let us continue our prayers to the Good Shepherd, the Risen One, by whose resurrection we have been gathered into the sheepfold of faith

The people may add their prayers silently or aloud.

Presiding-Celebrant Let us pray together.

All Grant that we may walk in your presence with your truth in our minds, your strength in our souls and your love in our hearts, that we may share the light of your love with all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Presiding-Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Sentence

Presiding-celebrant: Walk in love as Christ loves us and gives himself for us.

Offertory #645 The Hymnal 1982
The King of love my shepherd is

HOLY COMMUNION

Presentation Hymn (*Spoken 8:00; Sung 10:30*)

**All 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**

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

Presiding-Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presiding-Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presiding-Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presiding-Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presiding-Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presiding-Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presiding-Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presiding-Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"
Hymn # S-129, The Hymnal 1982

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presiding-Celebrant

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Presiding-celebrant

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray Jesus' Prayer in whatever language or words we are most comfortable:

All **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 forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presiding-Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Fraction Anthem "Christ Our Passover"
(10:30am) # S-155, The Hymnal 1982

Communion #316 The Hymnal 1982
This is the hour of banquet and of song *(10:30 only)*

Post-Communion Prayer

Presiding-celebrant Let us pray.

All

O God, who has renewed the earth by the gift of creation, we thank you for opening our hearts and making us new with this holy meal. As we have shared this bread and wine, may we also generously share our lives in love, and as we seek you in your creation each day, may we find the patience and vision to see your love at work in all things and the grace to let our lives reflect that love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Blessing

Presiding-Celebrant

The Lord of creation open your eyes to behold the beauty around you; the Lord of light shine forth to guide you on your way; and the Lord of love enfold you always in God's presence, this day and every day. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional # 708 The Hymnal 1982
Savior, like a shepherd lead us. *(10:30 only)*

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude