



**Welcome to our worship
The Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
April 19, 2026 10:00 a.m. "Enriching our Worship"**

Welcome to St Paul's Episcopal Church. We hope that your worship with us will be meaningful and a source of blessing and peace. Please take a moment to silence all electronic devices as a way to quiet the business of the world in favor of finding yourself in the presence of God. If you need to depart early, or arrive late, please exit during the hymns discreetly so as not to disturb the worship experience for others.

The music in our service is generally found in the blue Hymnal 1982 (listed as "Hymnal"). Service music (e.g. S-278) is found in the front section of the Hymnal. Additional hymns may be found in the green hymnal Worship and Rejoice, (listed as "Worship").

PRELUDE: I Know That My Redeemer Lives *Soper*

SURELY THE PRESENCE **Worship #131**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Jesus Christ is risen today **Hymnal #207**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

Celebrant

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE: Gloria

Refrain

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. *Refrain*

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.

Refrain

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. Refrain

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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2.14a, 36-41

This conclusion to Peter's sermon at Pentecost had spectacular results. Thousands responded and became members of the new faith community. This emphasizes how the early Church saw the resurrection as proof that Jesus was God's promised Messiah.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.... Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

from Psalm 116 *(from The Book of Common Prayer)*

This song of thanksgiving praises God for an apparent recovery from critical illness. It may have been sung by an individual worshiper making a thank-offering in the presence of a congregation gathered in the Temple court.

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 **The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;***
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 **How shall I repay the LORD ***
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD ***
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 **O LORD, I am your servant; ***

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD ***
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1.17-23

Peter's first letter may have been a manual exhorting newly baptized adults just converted from paganism. It makes the point that because of Christ's death and resurrection these new believers have been set free to be everything God created them to be. They are to live the rest of their lives in reverence for God and showing love for each other.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN: Shepherd of souls

Hymnal #343

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24.13-35

Two significant facts about the early Church come to the fore in this passage: 1) The apostolic community based its faith on the resurrection. 2) The community centered itself around the celebration of the continuing presence of Jesus in a fellowship meal. Later, this observance developed into the ritual of the Eucharist.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things

took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

GRADUAL HYMN: Shepherd of souls Hymnal #343

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

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

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, especially the Diocese of Warri, Nigeria, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; Tom, our Rector; Mary, our Deacon; 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, and those who advise them, 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 reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, 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 those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, or through outer space, especially our winter visitor as they travel home, 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 _____, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, and nurture victims of violence and warfare throughout your world, to the glory of your Name.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To thee, O Lord our God.

THE PEACE

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

Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians who receive it in faith as the presence of our Lord among us.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY: In the breaking of the bread *Hurd*

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 2, from Enriching our Worship

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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and

again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

SANCTUS

2 *mf*

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Soprano cresc.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Alto

Tenor

Bass cresc.

f dim.

cresc.

san-na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho -

cresc.

f

dim.

san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the

mp

dim.

mp

name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho -

cresc.

f

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

cresc.

ff

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE GREAT AMEN. Worship #744

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER Worship #740

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: Awake, arise Hymnal #212

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus Christ is risen today

Worship #295

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

Welcome visitors!

We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall after the service.

Celebrant and Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Tom Thoeni

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams

Eucharistic Minister/Altar

Philip Lindquist

Eucharistic/Chalice

Richard Shea

Lector/Intercessor

Steve Carnell

Usher(s)

Rosemary & Gary Poremba

Active Altar Guild Members: Philip Lindquist, Joan Allison, Diane Augustus, Rose Poremba, Mia Tajawandee, & Cindy Tysiak.

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, seasonal

Administrative Assistant

Betty Hernandez

Sexton

Gary Dickerson

Music Director

Jacque Scaduto

Vestry

Senior Warden Diane Augustus

Junior Warden Julio Albino

Secretary Jeannie Smith

Treasurer Rose Poremba

Members: Mary Lou Dogoloff, Paul Nelson, Charlene Connolly, Doug Olsen, Linda Connolly



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