HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

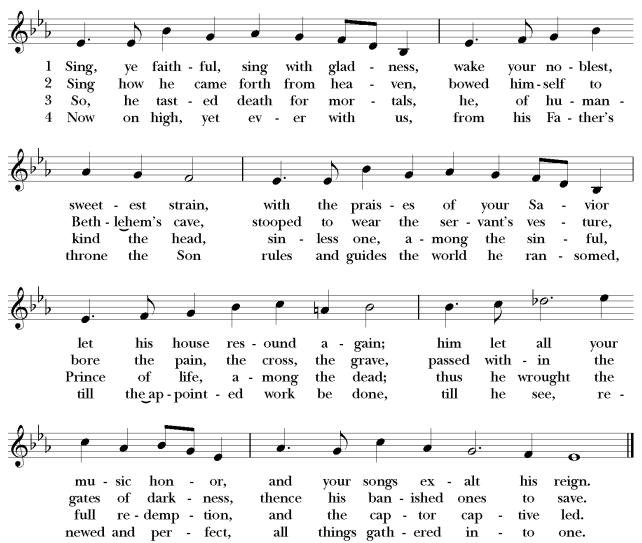
ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | APRIL 21, 2024 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Cantata No. 208 'Sheep May Safely Graze' - J.S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox

Please stand as the bell sounds.

HYMN IN PROCESSION



Words: John Ellerton (1826–1893), alt. Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

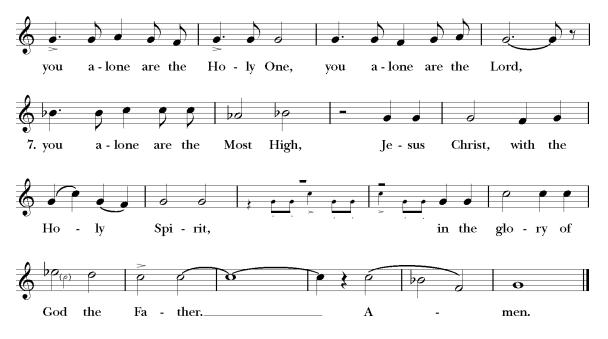
The People respond



The Lord is risen indeed. Al-le-lu-ia.







Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant intones

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of everlasting love, fulfill your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world. May we recognize your Christ as the Good Shepherd, who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LESSON seated 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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.



O God, you are my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green <u>pastures</u> * and lead me beside still <u>waters</u>.

You revive my <u>soul</u> * and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your <u>Name</u>.

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

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 <u>life</u>, * and I will dwell in the house of God for <u>ever</u>.

(at 11:00am) Anglican Chant: Edward Bairstow

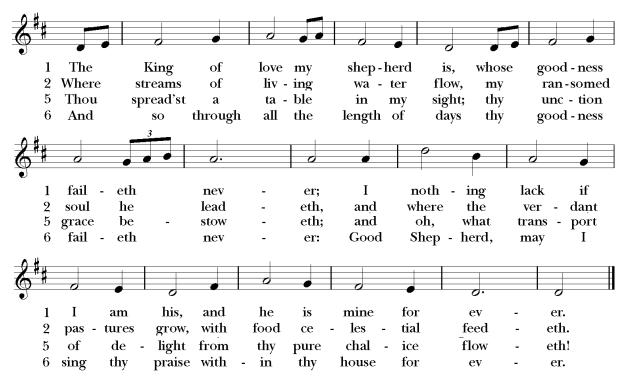
THE EPISTLE 1 John 3:16-24

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

As the Gospel Procession gathers, children ages 5-12 (and parents) are invited to join the Procession at the center. They will then leave for their own lesson and will rejoin us at the Passing of the Peace.

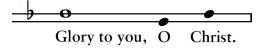


Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877); para. Psalm 23 Music: St. Columba, Irish melody, harm. Hymnal 1982

THE GOSPEL The Deacon or Priest intones

John 10:11-18

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



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."

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

During the season of Eastertide we will use the Affirmation of Faith (Creed) from one of our companion churches in the Anglican Communion, the Church of New Zealand. The prayers of this branch of the church are beloved throughout the Communion for their simple, direct, and creation-centered language in liturgy.

You O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love to us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of new creation, you promise to hear and answer when we pray to you in faith.

With confidence and trust we pray now for the world:

Lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the Church:

Enliven the Church for its mission

that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for this community:

Inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others, that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need, and especially those who have asked for our prayers...

Please add your own prayers, aloud or silently.

Comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn: [especially for...]

Please add your own prayers, aloud or silently.

Give comfort, O God, to those who grieve.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We give thanks for the faithful in every generation.

May their example inspire our witness in our own day.

The Celebrant concludes

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

seated

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stpaulsnorwalk.org/support

Thank You!-



MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

sung by the Cantor

Benediction Peter Lutkin (b. 1858-1931)

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

Today's anthem was selected for and is dedicated to our departing Seminarian, Molly Cooke.

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY standing



Words: William Kethe (d. 1608?); para. of Psalm 100

Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Worship and praise belong to you, author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores our broken world. You are unceasingly at work bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Christ raised from the dead proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire within us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:



Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

The Celebrant continues

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the light of Easter, the disciples found new hope as the truth dawned among them that the one they had loved and lost was with them now in every place forever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, he renewed the promise of his presence, and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your children.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me." Alive in him, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Made one with him, we offer you these gifts, and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work for your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Paul, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters, living and departed.

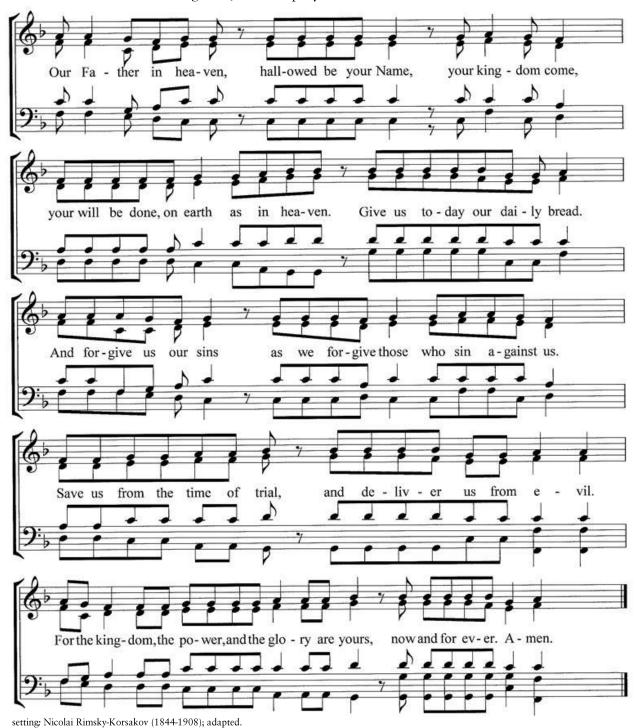
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



Setting: Will Doreza

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:



THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

This is the Bread of Heaven.

Broken for the life of the world.

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)

Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.

All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:



Words: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., (1923-2007) Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

MUSIC AT COMMUNION sung by the Cantor

You hear the lambs a-cryin'

Words: Traditional, Negro Spiritual Music: harm. Verolga Nix (b. 1933)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The People join in the final part of the prayer, in bold.

Ever-living God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and revealed the way to life in his name. Dying and rising, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF SEMINARIAN MOLLY COOKE

THE BLESSING

The wonder and wildness of God, who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty: Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION



Words: Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715–1769); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812–1897), alt. Music: St. Albinus, Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune - David German

After the Dismissal and during the Postlude you are welcome to:

come up into the chancel to immerse yourself in the music and see the organ up close;

depart for conversation at the back of the church and coffee hour downstairs in the parish hall;

remain seated to enjoy the organ voluntary from your seats.

As the liturgy concludes, the Service begins! Go in Peace.

St Paul's on the Green - 60 East Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org
The Rev. Daniel Simons Rector
The Rev. Paul Carling Priest Associate
Molly Cooke Seminarian
Will Doreza Interim Director of Music
Josh Ehlebracht Interim Organist
Marsha Dunn Parish Administrator

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