

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

The People's responses are in bold.

Gathering Music *Andante Espressivo* by Hélène Riese Liebmann (1795-c. 1859)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People

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

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)
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Opening Collect

O God of love, you are the true sun of the world, evermore risen and never going down: We pray you to shine in our hearts and drive away the darkness of sin and the mist of error. We pray that we may this day and all our lives long, walk without stumbling in the way you have prepared for us, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)
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The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of lasting love, fulfill your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world. Let everyone on earth recognize your Christ as the Good Shepherd, who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power. Grant 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 *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 God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

setting: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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The Gospel *John 10:11-18*

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

Glory to you, O 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The People repeat the Gospel Acclamation.

Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Affirmation of Faith

During the season of Eastertide we will be using the Affirmation of Faith (creed) from one of our sister 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

During the silences, please offer your own prayers and petitions aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The intercessor says

Loving God, in this season of new life, we pray:

For reconciliation between the violated and the violent,
That we may rest in your peace.

For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere,
That we may share the abundance of your creation.

For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,
That we may shape our common life as your kingdom.

For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,
That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.

For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,
That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.

For all the joys and concerns of our hearts,
That we may live with gladness and trust.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

Safe in your hand, O God, is the flock you shepherd through Jesus your Son. Lead us always to the living waters where you promise respite and refreshment, that we may be counted among those who know and follow you. 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 Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.

Thank you for your generous support!



The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

Hymn at the Offertory

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt.
 music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876);
 harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)
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The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed our joy to give thanks and praise to you, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and sky and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

setting: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
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The Celebrant continues

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, you have filled all creation with light and life. In great love you sent to us Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast with your presence and raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall - owed be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

The Communion

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)

Anthem at the Communion *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

Christ, who knows all his sheep,
will all in safety keep;
he will not lose his blood,
nor intercession:
nor we the purchased good
of his dear Passion.

I know my God is just,
to him I wholly trust:
all that I have and am,
all that I hope for:
all's sure and seen to him
which I grope for.

Lord Jesus, take my spirit,
I trust thy life and merit;
take home this wand'ring sheep,
for thou hast sought it:
this soul in safety keep,
for thou has bought it.

words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
music: Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

The Prayer after Communion

The People join the Celebrant for 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 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: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

1 Praise the Lord, rise up re-joic-ing, wor-ship, thanks, de-
2 Scat-tered flock, one shep-herd shar-ing, lost and lone-ly,
3 Sins for-giv-en, wrongs for-giv-ing, we go forth a-

vo-tion voic-ing; glo-ry be to God on high!
one voice hear-ing, ears at-ten-tive to your word;
lert and liv-ing in your Spi-rit, strong and free.

Christ, your cross and pas-sion shar-ing, by this Eu-cha-
by your Blood new life re-ceiv-ing, in your Bo-dy,
Part-ners in your new cre-a-tion, seek-ing peace in

rist de-clar-ing yours the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
firm be-liev-ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev-ery na-tion, may we faith-ful fol-lowers be.

words: Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902–1983), alt.

music: *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*, melody att. Johann Balthasar König (1691–1758), alt.;
harm. Johann Löhner (1645–1705), after chorale ver. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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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 *Maestoso* by Ernst Koehler (1799-1847)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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