

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Holy Eucharist at 11:00 AM

Worship with us at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Prélude from Suite Bergamasque* by Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: † Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

All sing together the Song of Praise.

Song of Praise

Antiphon

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]
God and the Lamb for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

Final Antiphon

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

words: Revelation 5:12-13; adapt. John W. Arthur (1922-1980)
music: *Festival Canticle*, Richard Hillert (1923-2010)
words © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*
music © 1975 Richard Hillert
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The Collect of the Day

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.

All: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading *Acts 2:14a,36-41*

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response *at the direction of the Cantor*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff continues with "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." and ends with a double bar line. The rhythm is consistent throughout, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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The Gospel *Luke 24:13-35*

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

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

Celebrant: Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon *preached by the Reverend Daniel Simons, Priest-in-Charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed

Douglas Gay, adapted

All: We Believe in Life.

We believe in the God of Life, the world maker, the star lighter, the sun shiner, the beauty maker; provoking the evolving cosmos from nothing but words of love. We believe in life.

We believe in the risen Jesus, the cross bearer, the hell-harrower, the death defier; embracing the resurrection of all as the first-born from death. We believe in life.

We believe in the life-giving Spirit, the breath bringer, the body lover, the Church birther; enabling communion with Jesus the Living One. We believe in life.

We believe in the God of Life: World-maker, cross-bearer, life-giver; Trinity of hope, leading creation to its liberation.

We believe in God.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace, we give you thanks and praise: God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: We thank you for life, and one more day to love; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For opportunity, and one more day to work for justice and peace; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For neighbors, and one more person to love and by whom to be loved; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For your grace, and one more experience of your presence; God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God. God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: For what else shall we pray? Please name your own prayers in the place where you are.

Silence is kept.

Intercessor: Pray for those who are ill and those who care for them.

Pray for those who have died and those who mourn them.

For the healing you bring and the hope to which you call us: God of abundance,

People: we thank you.

Intercessor: Gathering all our prayers together, we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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 for ever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Musical Offering at the Offertory *sung by the choir*

Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your king in glorious symphony.

Sing choirs of earth! Behold your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!

Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of vict'ry won!
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people shout the long Amen.

words: paraphrase of the Exsultet
music: Richard Shephard (b. 1949)

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our God.

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

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, adapted from the 2nd century Didache eucharistic prayer.

Holy God, we give you thanks for your image and very being, planted in our hearts, and for the knowledge, and faith, and immortality you have made known to us in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

You are radiant in glory through all you have created, O God. You give us food and drink for our pleasure, and that we might give you thanks. You bless us now with spiritual food and drink, eternal life in Jesus your servant. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

While Jesus sat at table with his friends, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat; this is my Body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, you remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his friends and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new creation, poured out for you and for all. Whenever you drink it, you remember me

Gathered now at your banquet O God, we offer our lives as thanks and praise. Remember us, your pilgrim people; deliver us from evil, and make us complete in your love. Gather us, like scattered grain growing on the hillsides, into your great harvest, that we may be made one in the wholeness of your love. **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Communion

During this season of gathering together virtually in the space of our homes, we take this moment to contemplate the sacrament of Christ's presence in the People of God. The Apostle Paul says, "we are all one body because we all share in the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). It is true that when we share any meal in love, and the Eucharist is our especially focused way, we discern the Presence of Christ in and as the community of the beloved. This awareness is possible even at a distance. We are the Body of Christ, wherever we are.

As we open ourselves to that awareness, that spiritual communion, you may wish to pray the following prayer, adapted from the writings of Sr. Ilia Delio:

O God, we are united here as one in your transcendent power of love. From this center of goodness You appear to us now in a new way, a new light, a new understanding, a new power of friendship and unity. We receive this life from you; we share this life together. You appear in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. We receive you. This is the Body of Christ. Amen.

Musical Offering at the Communion *sung by the choir*

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token,
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

words: Reginald Heber (1827)
music: John Abdenour (b. 1962)

THE SENDING RITE

The Prayer after Communion

from the Church of New Zealand

The Celebrant prays

Celebrant: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. 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.

All: **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 and Peace

from the Church of New Zealand

The Celebrant blesses the People

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. **Amen.**

The Celebrant bids the People to share Christ's Peace with one another now, at the virtual coffee hour to follow, and by reaching out in the week to come.

Postlude *Air in D major* by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Join us for **Coffee Hour** on Zoom! Click here: <https://zoom.us/j/95487513966>

To call in by phone, dial (415) 762-9988 and use meeting ID 954 8751 3966.

Today only, join our parish-wide Zoom meeting centered on listening and communal discernment from 4-5pm.

Visit this link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEld-GqqjkiHNQJCdLAtZe3PHbaKdE-js1B>

View our weekly announcements at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning.

St. Paul's on the Green

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GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Sharing in the work of St. Paul's expanding ministry is easy, and there are many ways to contribute. Financial giving is especially important during this time, as many of the church's costs are fixed, and expenses continue to come due. Grateful thanks for all generous contribution during this time.

You can:

- * **Mail a check** made payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church: 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851. Mail is being picked up regularly.
- * Mail in your **pledge envelope**.
- * **Give electronically** via bank or credit card: visit <http://www.stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate> to learn more.
- * **Text-to-Give**: simple and secure; text the amount of your donation to **855-934-1074**.

Please reach out to our Treasurer, Brad McKinney, at treasurer@stpaulsnorwalk.org with any questions or issues you may have. Thank you for your generous giving during this time.
