

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Holy Eucharist at 11:00 AM

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

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:
the Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:
sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,
unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,
and let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,
in flakes of Glory down him to attend,
and hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody
surround his Chariot as it did ascend;
mixing their Music, making ev'ry string
more to enravish as they this tune sing.

words: Edward Taylor (1646-1729)
music: Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

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.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading *Acts 1:6-14*

Lector: When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Response *at the direction of the Cantor*



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The Gospel *John 17:1-11*

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

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

Deacon: Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon *preached by the Rev. 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 St. Paul's choir*

Ascendens Christus in altum, alleluia.

Captivam duxit, alleluia.

Dedit dona hominibus, alleluia.

Christ rose to the highest, alleluia.

He took captivity captive, alleluia,

He gave a gift to all people, alleluia.

words: Ephesians 4:8

music: Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

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 *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630*
by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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 *Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ (Christ our Lord is Risen), BWV 628*
by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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.

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.
