

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 18, 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 *Adoration* by Florence Price (1887-1953)

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

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all the prophets, you fulfilled your promise of old that your Christ would suffer and so rise to glory. Open our minds to understand the scriptures and fill us with joyful wonder in the presence of the risen Christ, that we may be his witnesses to the farthest reaches of the earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson *Acts 3:12-19*

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4 *chanted by the cantor*

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Gospel *Luke 24:36b-48*

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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 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

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.

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

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

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

O God of mystery, out of death you delivered Christ Jesus, and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples. Stir up our faith, that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word, and our eyes be opened to recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, 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 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
 5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
 3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
 4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
 5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
 2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
 3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
 5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev.
 music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.
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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.

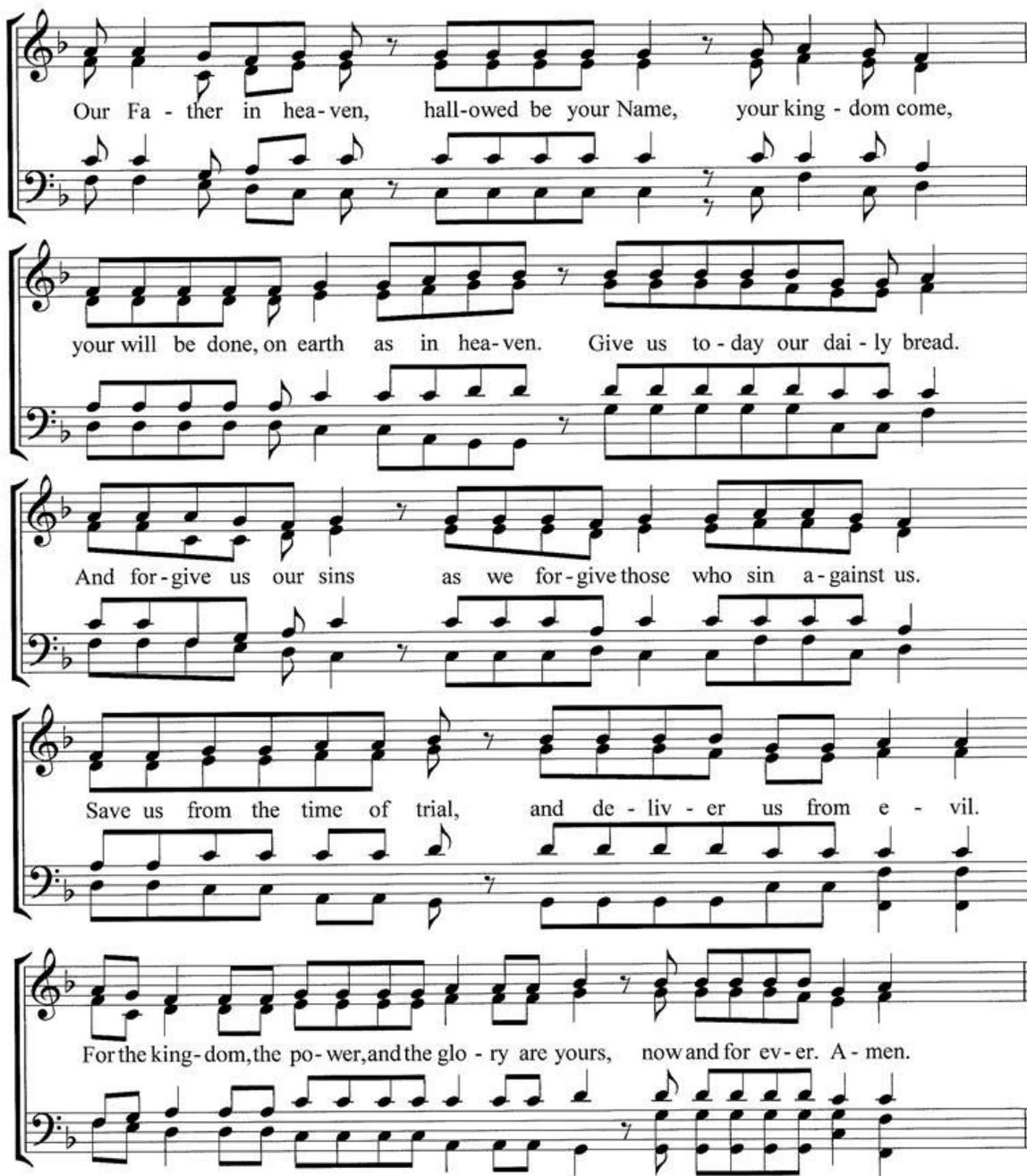
On the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you."

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*

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst His three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now hath Christ arisen!*

Death's flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver.

My flesh in hope shall rest
and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number.

words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934)
music: traditional Dutch carol; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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. AMEN.

Hymn

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system includes two vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The third system continues the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest; nay,
2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met; thou

let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest in
"This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet: faith

thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.

words: George Wallace Briggs (1875–1959), alt.
music: *Rosedale*, Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)
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music © 1969 H. W. Gray
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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 *Fuge in B-flat major* by Wilhelm Wedemann (1805-1845)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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

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