

# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Episcopal)

CARING COMMUNITY - ENGAGING OUTREACH - COMPELLING WORSHIP



**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 7, 2024**  
**10:00am**

#### **Clergy and Staff**

Rector: The Rev. Eleanor A. Terry  
Deacon: The Rev. Ken Schmidt  
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music: Ellen F. Oak  
Church Administrator: Laura Brock

**Church Office:** (978)263-5782

**Email:** [admin@goodshepherdacton.org](mailto:admin@goodshepherdacton.org)

**Website:** [www.goodshepherdacton.org](http://www.goodshepherdacton.org)

**Facebook:** Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton (Episcopal)

# THE PREPARATION

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Now Rejoice* by J. S. Bach

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 208** (*Blue Hymnal*) **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The Strife is O'er**

## WELCOME

*Priest:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The priest addresses the people.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

In mercy and might God has freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

*Priest:* Let us pray,

Almighty God, we praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

*All:* Amen.

## SONG OF PRAISE

***In Jesus the Lord***

Words: Traditional

Music: Ellen Oak

*All sing the refrain. Choir sings the verses as the congregation is sprinkled with baptismal waters.*

*Refrain:*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: "In Je - sus the Lord, from death to new life, by wa - ter and the word,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "we are the ris - en bo - dy of Christ, Al - le - lu - ia!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Verses sung by choir:*

1. I saw water flowing from the temple, Alleluia!  
It brought God's life and salvation, Alleluia!  
And all the people sang joyfully, Alleluia!

*Refrain*

2. The angel showed me the river of the water of life, Alleluia!  
Flowing from the throne of God and from the Lamb, Alleluia!  
Freely given to all who thirst, Alleluia!

*Refrain*

3. Springs of water, bless the Lord, Alleluia!  
Running fountains and rushing streams, Alleluia!  
Crashing waves and all oceans, Alleluia!

*Refrain*

## **PEACE**

*Priest* Refreshed and renewed with the waters of baptism, let us greet one another. The peace of the risen Christ be with you always

*People* **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Priest* Let us pray together.

*All* **Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **FIRST READING: ACTS 4:32-35**

A reading from the Act of the Apostles.

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 133**

*We will sing the psalm side to side by verse on one note, beginning with the piano side.*

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when kindred live together in unity!

**2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,**

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

5 For there has God ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

St. Helena Psalter

**SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 1:1--2:2**

A Reading from first Letter of John.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*All sing the refrain. Choir sings the verse that follows, and all sing the refrain again.*

*Refrain:*



Verse: Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life.

Words: Psalm 118

### **GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

19 It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

24 Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

26 After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

28 Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

30 Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. 31 But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.  
*All sing Alleluia, as above.*

### **SERMON**

**The Rev. Ken Schmidt, Deacon**

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We join our hearts and voices in praying for ourselves, our neighbors, the church, the world.

***My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.***

Even as your people, living in your world, as we praise your name, we recognize a twinge of fear and doubt in our hearts, we ask you to manifest your presence in our lives in a tangible and glorious way. We pray to you,

***My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.***

We pray for your followers throughout the world, that they have an experience of your love for themselves, and a genuine experience of love with each other. We pray to you,

***My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.***

We pray for those in authority everywhere, that they are sensitive to the needs of those they serve, that they create environments in which integrity, truth, and justice flourish. We pray to you,

***My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.***

We bring before you those who are on our hearts this day, who are suffering from spiritual or physical pain, who are paralyzed with anxiety and despair. (*Silence, during which we name those for whom we pray*) Come into their lives with powerful healing, and into their hearts with words of comfort and peace. Hold those dying today close to your heart and welcome them into your eternal light and life. We pray to you,

***My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.***

This copyright material is taken from *A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* and is used with permission. From [riteplanning.com](http://riteplanning.com). Copyright © 2024 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

**OFFERING**

**Presentation**

*All stand. As we sing, the ushers bring forward the bread and wine..*

Bring up the gifts, re - joice, and sing! All that we are in of - fer - ing!

All that we have for trans - form - ing! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Music: *Gelobt Sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616). Words: Ellen Oak.

*Please be seated.*

*As the offertory hymn is sung by all in their seats, the ushers collect the people's offerings and the Table is prepared.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN 209 (Blue Hymnal) *We Walk by Faith***

All stand.

As we sing, the ushers bring forward the people's offerings in support of our life and ministry.

Musical score for the hymn "Gelobt Sei Gott". The score is written for a choir in 3/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "To God the Mak - er, to the Christ, and to the Spi - rit, Three-in - One,". The second system, starting with a measure rest (9), contains the lyrics: "We sing for life in us be - gun! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!". The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties.

Music: *Gelobt Sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpinus (1560?-1616). Words: Ellen Oak.

## 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.

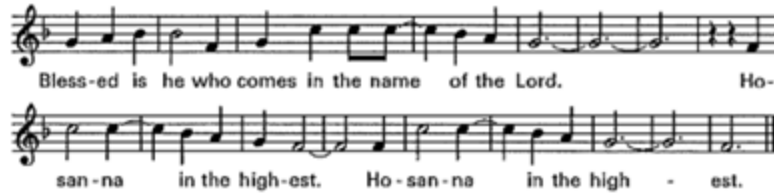
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter  
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Musical score for the preface. The score is written for a choir in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties.





## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

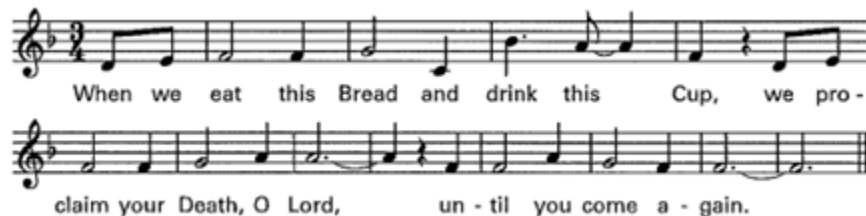
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord 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.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

*Cantor Chants:* Come, Holy Spirit.  
*All repeat:* **Come, Holy Spirit.**



## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Deacon:* Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*The assembly may be seated.*

*All our siblings in Christ are warmly welcome to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.*

**COMMUNION HYMN WLP 761** (*Green Hymnal*) **All Who Hunger Gladly**

**COMMUNION HYMN 206** (*Blue Hymnal*) **Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**All: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to show us the way, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us out as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may share your glory with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us into new life with our Risen Christ, fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit be upon you this Easter Day and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN WLP 787** (*Green Hymnal*) **We are Marching in the Light of God**

### **DISMISSAL**

*Deacon:* Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*All:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *Voluntary on Azmon* (*Glaser*) by Tom Birchwood

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

*Our liturgy in Lent and Eastertide comes from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,  
Holy Communion Setting Nine. Since July 2000, the Episcopal Church and  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have been in Full Communion, allowing the  
exchange of clergy, and working together for the  
common mission of proclaiming and serving the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We use this liturgy with the blessing of the  
Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.*



Please hold these people on our parish prayer list in prayer this week:

Malcolm Bryant, Lee Conley, Diane Cooke, Beverly Duncan, Dick Fedele, Barbara Geary,  
Daed Gharios, Bill Harland, David Hill, Ginny Huettner, Rev. Pete Jeffrey, Walter John,  
Denise Kelly, Iris Meltzer, Ed Moore, Jim Pender, Hector Pupo, Eleanore Recko, Bev Ridpath,  
Amie Saulnier, Lynn Shapiro, Sonia Stevenson and Maddie White.

Deceased – Tom Colbaugh