

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Episcopal)

CARING COMMUNITY - ENGAGING OUTREACH - COMPELLING WORSHIP



Good Shepherd Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 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

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

THE PREPARATION

ORGAN PRELUDE *Voluntary* by John Worgan (1724-1790)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 493 (*Blue Hymnal*) **O for a Thousand Tongues**

WELCOME

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The priest addresses the people.

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. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

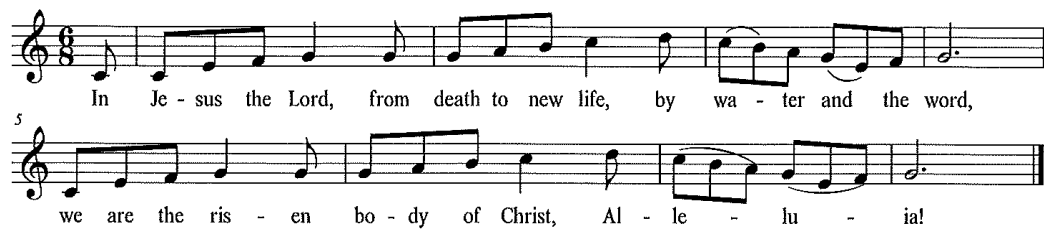
In Jesus the Lord

Words: Traditional

Music: Ellen Oak

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

Refrain:



In Je - sus the Lord, from death to new life, by wa - ter and the word,
5 we are the ris - en bo - dy of Christ, Al - le - lu - ia!

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 **O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: ACTS 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁵The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

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

1 O God, you are my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

**2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.**

3 You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways
for the sake of your Name.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.**

St. Helena Psalter

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

A Reading from first Letter of John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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:



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

Verse: My sheep hear my voice says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

Words: Psalm 118

GOSPEL: JOHN 10: 11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.

All sing Alleluia, as above.

SERMON

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

Lead your church into the way of love. Teach us to hear and follow your voice and your vision for the world.

Tender Shepherd,
call us each by name and lead us home.

Guide those around the world who make decisions that impact the lives of individuals and nations.

Tender Shepherd,
precede us all in the ways of justice and peace.

Lighten the burden of those suffering loss, illness, and anxiety, those whom we know and love and those who are unknown to us.

In the silence which follows, you are invited to name those for whom you pray.

Tender Shepherd,

comfort them and shower them with your healing grace.

We pray for those who have died. (*Silence in which to name those for whom you pray.*)
Carry those who have finished their earthly journey into the next life and gently place them
in God's eternal embrace.

Tender Shepherd,

hold them close to your heart forever.

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OFFERING

Presentation

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

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

9
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 Vulpus (1560?-1616). Words: Ellen Oak.

Please be seated.

As the offertory anthem is sung, the ushers collect the people's offerings and the Table is prepared.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Lord is My Shepherd*

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I want nothing.

He shall feed me in green pastures, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort,

Text: Psalm 23. Music: Maurice Greene (1696-1755), arr. James Kirkby

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 two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "To God the Mak - er, to the Christ, and to the Spi - rit, Three-in - One, We sing for life in us be - gun! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!" The music features a simple, homophonic style with a steady bass line and a melody in the upper part.

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.

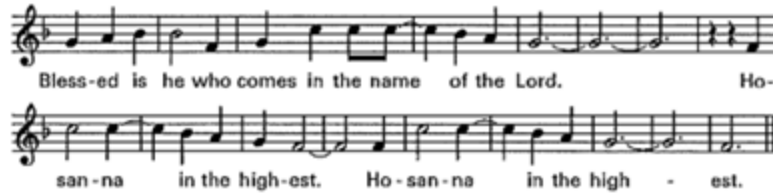
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) 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 simple, homophonic style with a steady bass line and a melody in the upper part.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

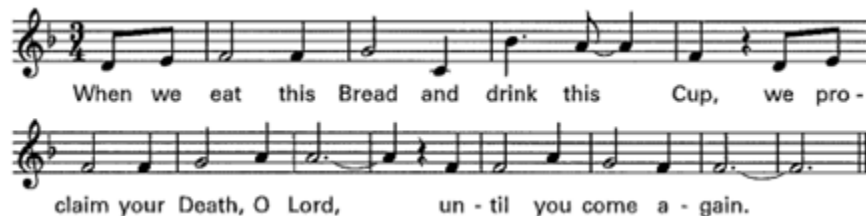
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.**

Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

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

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

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

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 forever. Amen.**

FRACTION ANTHEM WLP 875 (*Green Hymnal*) **Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus**

Refrain:



Verses:

The bread which we break, Alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.
One body are we, Alleluia, for though many, we share one bread.

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 343 (*Blue Hymnal*) ***Shepherd of Souls***

COMMUNION HYMN WLP 784 (*Green Hymnal*) ***Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises!***

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 Eastertide and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 708 (*Blue Hymnal*) ***Saviour, Like a Shepherd***

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE Voluntary on ***Send the Light*** by Humphrey Turner

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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, 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, Walter John and Edward Spellman