

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Liturgy of the Word

Sunday 9:00 am (Online)



Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Hymn *We walk by faith, and not by sight* Hymnal #209

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice, and cry, 'My Lord and God!'

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

that, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Epistle – 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

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

And 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. All 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.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

Response **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23

**1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**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 the LORD for ever.**

Holy Gospel – John 10:11-18

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

Response **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Reflection Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings (Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain, The river running by
The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky (Refrain)

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one (Refrain)

The tall trees in the greenwood, The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water, To gather every day. (Refrain)

He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. (Refrain)

Cecil F. Alexander

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.***

*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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

Presider

With all our heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord saying: **Hear our Prayer.**

Presider

God, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Closing Hymn

Jesu, Jesu

Hymnal #602

Chorus: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Chorus)

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are nearby and far away.
(Chorus)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and you. (Chorus)

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we were slaves;
this is the way we should live with you. (Chorus)

Ghanian; tr. Thomas Colvin (b. 1925), alt.

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