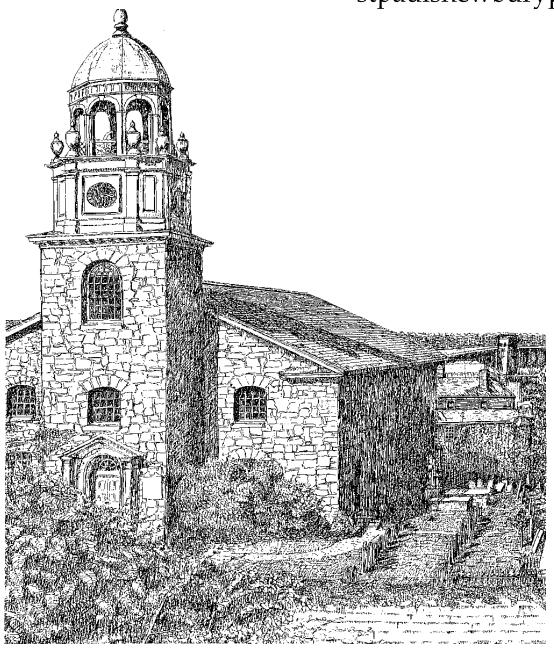
St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, MA Saturday, April 16, 2022 8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter stpaulsnewburyport.org





# Welcome Home

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community. It's a community that takes God's love for the world seriously, fosters a living faith, and cares for one another—it's a community of belonging. We're also a community that welcomes doubt as part of faith, values questions alongside answers, and provides a home for exploration, wherever you find yourself on the spectrum of belief and in your pursuit of truth.

At St. Paul's we worship God, pray for our world, build community, and seek to serve others by working for justice, peace, and reconciliation. That work brings those who are vulnerable, rejected, overlooked, or marginalized in our world to the center of our life together. This is the story we embody every time we gather for the Eucharist, as we join in Jesus Christ's offering of himself for the life of the world — Christ, who became the poor, marginalized, rejected one on the cross for our salvation.

The Eucharist (also called the Mass or Holy Communion) is our share in that offering. It's at the heart of everything we are and do, and so we celebrate it with reverence, solemnity, and great joy. The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving," and in it we offer our whole selves to God in thanks—our frustrations and conflicts, our peace and joy, our sorrow and pain—and receive ourselves back anew, transformed by Christ's presence. Like our Baptism, the Eucharist is a sacrament of unity. In it we are made a true community, united in love and service as the family of Christ.

The Eucharist is also a revolutionary act of justice and equality (as is our Baptism, through which we enter this family of Christ). In the Eucharist we, regardless of the color of our skin, our gender identity or sexuality, our age, our abilities, our social or economic status — people who in many places in our world would not be seen under same roof together—receive the same life-giving bread and call each other one body and one family. There is perhaps no more radical act in our world than this.

Through this offering of the Eucharist, we become a eucharistic gift ourselves, an offering of love and mercy to the world.

As we enter into and embody this story of God's love, everything you need to follow along is in this booklet. Maybe you're with us just for the day, maybe you're getting to know us just a little bit more, but maybe, just maybe, you've found a home. If you're interested in learning more about being baptized or becoming a member of St. Paul's, or you have questions or need anything at all, please don't hesitate to talk to me after the service or reach out any time.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr Jarred Mercer (Fr Jarred) Rector

#### Prayers of preparation before the Eucharist

Before the Eucharist, take time in silence and prayer to prepare yourself for our worship together.

Here are some prayers that may help.

Prayer Before Receiving Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Anima Christi (Soul of Christ)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you
That with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever. Amen.

*The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–10)* 

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

#### THE LITURGY OF LIGHT

We begin outside the entrance of the church The new fire is kindled The people stand and face the celebrant

# Blessing of the New Fire

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The new fire is blessed.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Bless this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration, and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

# Blessing and Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The paschal or Easter candle is blessed. The priest cuts a cross in the wax. Then he traces the Greek letter A (alpha) above the cross, the letter  $\Omega$  (omega) below, and the numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross. Meanwhile the priest says:

Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end, the Alpha, and the Omega; all time belongs to him, and all the ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. *People: Amen.* 

Five grains of incense are inserted in the candle in the form of a cross, representing Christ's five glorious wounds, while the priest says:

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. People: Amen.

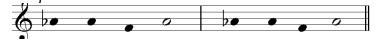
The priest lights the candle from the new fire, saying:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

After the Paschal candle is lit from the newly kindled fire, the people follow the light into the church. Light from the paschal candle is shared and the light of Christ spreads among the people. Its flame multiplying but never dimming.

The celebrant moves with the candle moves up the aisle, the people follow and proceed to their seats and remain standing, stopping three times to chant the following, rising in pitch each time:

*Celebrant:* The light of Christ *People: Thanks be to God.* 



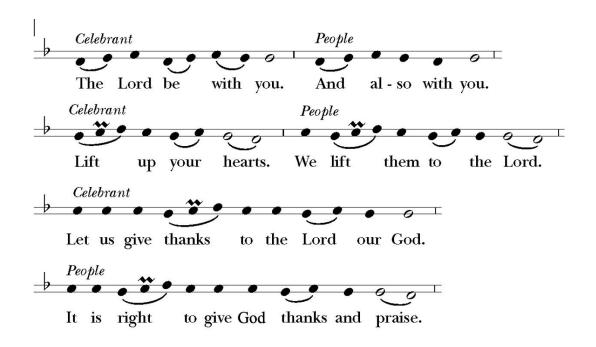
The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet, or Easter Proclamation, is sung. Please remain standing.

### The Exsultet

The paschal candle is put on a stand in the middle of the sanctuary, and censed. The Celebrant then sings the Exsultet. The Exsultet is an ancient hymn praising Christ as the light of the world. Its beautiful praises connect the entire history of salvation, from Eden, to the Exodus, to Christ's resurrection.

Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of Angels; rejoice all you holy ones around God's throne; let the trumpet of salvation sound the triumph of this mighty King. Rejoice too, O earth, in the radiance of this brightness; enlightened by the brightness of the eternal King, know that the darkness of the whole world has been put to flight. Rejoice too, O mother Church, arrayed in the brilliance of so great a light; let these walls echo with the joyful song of all the people here. And you, present at the lighting of this holy flame, I pray you, join with me in invoking loving kindness of Almighty God. May God, who not for any merit of mine, has deigned to number me among his ministers, shed on me the light of his brightness, helping me to sing this candle's fitting praise.



It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you. For this is the Paschal feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful. This is the night when you first saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea. This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ. This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault. Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy. Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you. Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering, this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers. As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee, grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light. For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world! Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

People: A - MEN.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The celebrant introduces the readings, spanning the story of salvation history in Scripture. Each reading is followed by a Psalm and a Collect prayer.

The people they sit for the readings, standing as they are able for each Collect.

*Celebrant:* Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how God saved God's people in ages past and in the fulness of time sent the Son to be our redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work that has begun.

# The First Reading: The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

*Reader:* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and

multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.** 

Psalm: Psalm 136:1-9, 22-36
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures for ever; and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures for ever; who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Oh God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please be seated.

# The Second Reading: The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind – every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

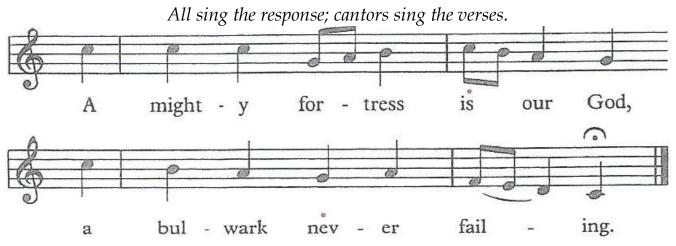
At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh - birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.' So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Response

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

#### Response

Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

#### Response

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please be seated.

# The Third Reading: Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22:1-18

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set

Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: The word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.** 



WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader SLANE 10.10.10.10. Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: A - men.

Please be seated.

# The Fourth Reading: Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Reader: A reading from the Book of Exodus.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The

Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Canticle:** *The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1–6, 11–13, 18–18)* Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: 'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. 'Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power – your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

'Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendour, doing wonders?

You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.

'In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

The LORD will reign for ever and ever.'

Please stand as you are able Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please be seated.

# The Fifth Reading: Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah. Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. *Reader:* The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle: The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2–6)

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \* and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \* *from the springs of salvation*.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \* *and this is known in all the world.* 

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \* for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: A - men.

Please be seated.

# The Sixth Reading: Learn Wisdom and Live

Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4

Reader: A reading from the Book of Baruch.

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;

give ear, and learn wisdom!

Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,

that you are growing old in a foreign country,

that you are defiled with the dead,

that you are counted among those in Hades?

You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

If you had walked in the way of God,

you would be living in peace for ever.

Learn where there is wisdom,

where there is strength,

where there is understanding,

so that you may at the same time discern

where there is length of days, and life,

where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

Who has found her place?

And who has entered her storehouses?

But the one who knows all things knows her,

he found her by his understanding.

The one who prepared the earth for all time

filled it with four-footed creatures;

the one who sends forth the light, and it goes;

he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling;

the stars shone in their watches, and were glad;

he called them, and they said, "Here we are!"

They shone with gladness for him who made them.

This is our God;

no other can be compared to him.

He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved.

Afterwards she appeared on earth and lived with humankind.

She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever.

All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die.

Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light.

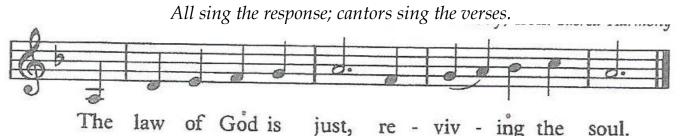
Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people.

Happy are we, O Israel,

for we know what is pleasing to God.

Reader: The word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.** 

Psalm: Psalm 19



The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Response

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,

The law of the LORD is perfect reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

#### Response

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

#### Response

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you led your ancient people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we, who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where all tears are wiped away and where your saints for ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: A - men.

# The Seventh Reading: A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Reader: A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord People: **Thanks be to God.** 

**Psalm:** *Psalms* 42–43 All sing the response; cantor sings the verses



My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

## Response

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

#### Response

Please stand as you are able

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are 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.

After the last reading from the Old Testament with its psalm and prayer, the altar candles are lit from the Paschal Candle, the lights in the church are raised, and all sing the **Gloria**. Bells are rung throughout in joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection.



The Celebrant then prays the Collect for the Easter Vigil.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

Please be seated

# The Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

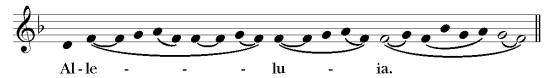
For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

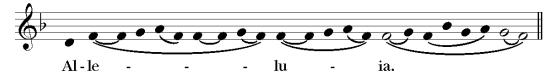
People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able. The Celebrant intones the **Solemn Alleluia**, which is repeated three times by the People, rising in pitch each time.

Celebrant:



### People:



As the cantor begins to sing the Gospel Acclamation, please stand as you are able.

#### Gospel Alleluia

The Alleluia is sung by a cantor, then repeated by all, then repeated by all again after the gospel sentence.



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

**Holy Gospel:** *Luke* 21:1 – 12 *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** 

**Sermon** Fr Jarred

The preacher invokes the Name of the Trinity, all respond "Amen," and then sit for the sermon.

The Easter Homily of St. John Chrysostom

The sermon concludes with the following Easter Acclamation, three times, rising in volume each time:

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

#### THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Please stand as you are able.

The People relight their candles.

During the procession to the font, this baptismal **Litany** is sung.

After each petition the People respond:



#### Lord, hear our prayer

Deliver us, O Lord from the way of sin and death.

Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

Fill us with your holy life-giving Spirit.

Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

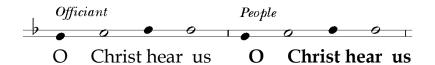
Send us into the world to witness to your love.

Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Through the intercession of Blessed Mary, Paul, and all the holy saints of God.

By your grace bless our font where your children will be reborn.

Jesus, Son of the living God.

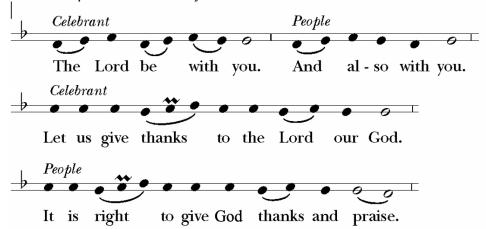


*Celebrant:* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever.

People: A - men.

#### Blessing of the Water

Water is poured into the font and the Celebrant blesses the water of baptism.



The priest continues with the blessing over the water.

The priest lowers the Easter candle into the water three times and continues: We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.

The priest holds the candle in the water:

that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: A - MEN.

as the candle is taken out of the water, the People make this acclamation:

People: Springs of water, bless the Lord, give God glory and praise for ever.

#### Renewal of Baptismal Vows

All light their candles and renew their covenant of baptism.

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced evil and promised to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

*Celebrant:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*Celebrant*: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and

return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? *People: I will, with God's help.* 

*Celebrant:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? *People: I will, with God's help.* 

*Celebrant:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows with the following prayer: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen*.

The People are sprinkled with the blessed water, recalling their baptism in thanksgiving. The Vidi aquam (I saw water) is sung by a cantor.

"Vidi aquam"

setting by Jeffrey Ostrowski

I saw water flowing from the Temple, from its right-hand side, alleluia: And all to whom this water came were saved and shall say: Alleluia, alleluia. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say that he is good: that his mercy endures forever.

#### The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

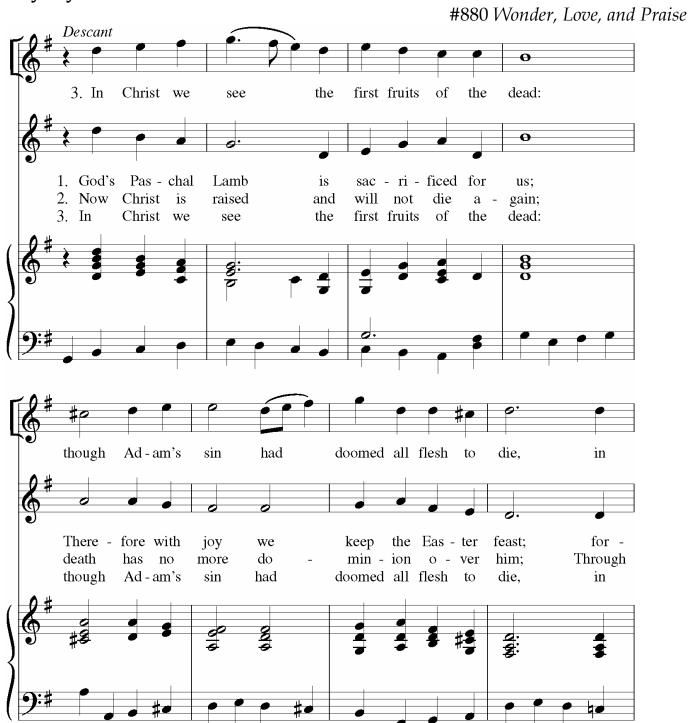
All share signs of Christ's peace with one another, especially seeking to amend any hurts or conflicts. During this time, all may acknowledge the peace of Christ in and with one another without touch and with a bow from a distance.

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The offering is taken and the altar is set for the Eucharist.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the Lord's name, bring offerings and come into God's courts.

# Offertory Hymn "God's Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us"



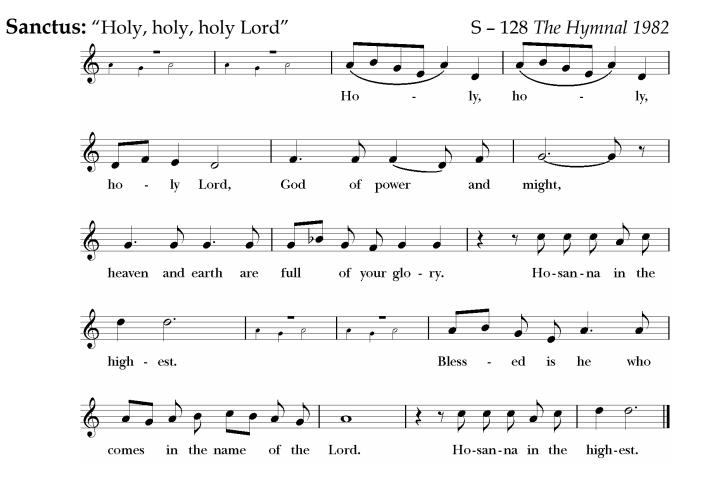


Please stand as you are able

# **Eucharistic Prayer**



The Celebrant proceeds by singing the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, after which all sing the Sanctus.



Please kneel as you are able.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer. After the words of institution this Acclamation may be used:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: (or)

Great is the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

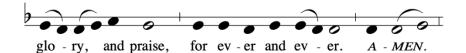
The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, leading to the Doxology to which all respond by singing the "great Amen."



Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the



u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit, to you be hon - or,



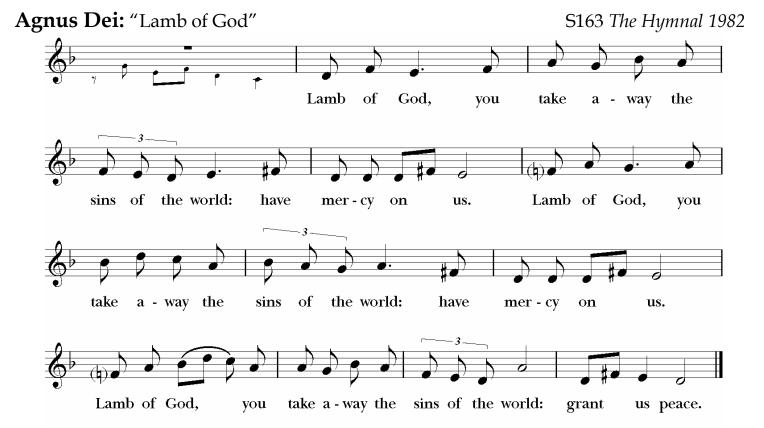
The Celebrant then continues
As our Saviour taught us, now we pray:

Please stand as you are able. 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.

#### Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.



**Giving of Communion** Please kneel as you are able Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Those present come forward to receive communion, released by pew by an usher. There is no requirement to be a member of St. Paul's or Episcopalian to receive communion here. We believe that all are welcome, regardless of tradition or denomination, to be nourished at Christ's table and strengthened to live the faith of their baptism. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign of this.

If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let your usher know.

We are now receiving communion in both kinds (bread and wine). If one wishes to receive the bread only due to the pandemic, this in no way diminishes the sacrament. It has always been the teaching of the Church that the whole Christ is present to us whether we receive both bread and wine together or only one. **Intinction (dipping bread into the wine) is not allowed.** 

Please take a sip from the common cup to receive. If you are not receiving the wine, cross your arms over your chest in front of the chalice after receiving the bread an acknowledge Christ's presence with us by saying "Amen" after the chalice bearer says, "the blood of Christ."

All remain kneeling as they are able upon returning to their seats after communion.

# **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

Those unable to be present who are worshiping with us at a distance may pray this prayer of spiritual communion:

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

# **Communion Anthem:** *(choir)* "I know that my Redeemer lives" setting by Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

I know that my Redeemer lives. What comfort this sweet sentence gives.

He lives to bless you with his love. He lives to plead my cause above.

He lives to crush the fiends of hell. He lives and doth within me dwell.

He lives, all glory to his name. He lives, my Jesus, still the same.

I know that my Redeemer lives. What comfort this sweet sentence gives.

Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground. The dead's alive and the lost is found.

Glory, Hallelujah!

Words: Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

Please stand as you are able.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant: Let us pray.
Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal Sacrament one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
People: Amen.

# Blessing

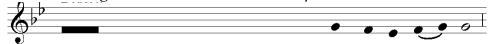
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

The celebrant pronounces a blessing, after which all respond *Amen.* 

#### **Dismissal**

The Celebrant sings the dismissal, and all respond.



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al-le-lu - ia,





# **Closing Hymn:** "The strife is o'er, the battle done"

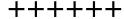
#208 The Hymnal 1982





Postlude: "Prelude VI for Organ"

Hermann Schroeder (1904-1994)



# **SERVICE LEADERS**

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Jarred A. Mercer

Music Director: Mark Meyer

Choir: Richard Blumenscheid, Elaine Bucher, Joyce Cejka, Pam Jones, Virginia Meyer

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Tom Hussey

Lectors: Ed Winslow, Clare Keller, Margie DeWeese-Boyd, Juliet Walker, Bev Brennan,

Virginia Meyer, Ian DeWeese-Boyd, Ed Winslow

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#### **Covid Protocols**

- For those who are fully vaccinated, masks are optional and encouraged based on one's needs and comfort. Masks are <u>required</u> for those who are unvaccinated.
- The pews at front left of the church are reserved for those who wish to stay socially distanced during the service.
- We are now receiving communion in both kinds (bread and wine). If one wishes to receive the bread only due to the pandemic, this in no way diminishes the sacrament. It has always been the teaching of the Church that the whole Christ is present to us whether we receive both bread and wine together or only one element. If you are not receiving the wine, cross your arms over your chest in front of the chalice after receiving the bread an acknowledge Christ's presence with us by saying "Amen" after the chalice bearer says, "the blood of Christ."

#### St. Paul's 2022 Vestry

Deirdre Budzyna – Senior Warden Vacant – Junior Warden Nick Ives – Treasurer Susan Aquaviva – Clerk

Shepherds

Class of 2025

Pam Jones

Class of 2024

Lorrie Jones

Lisë Reid

Class of 2023

Kerry Lagueux

John Neale

Alison Novello

#### **Diocesan Delegates/Deanery Representatives**

Alison Novello Lainie Ives

#### St. Paul's is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Our bishops are:

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates and The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris

#### St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jarred A. Mercer, Rector – rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org
Mark Meyer, Music Director – markmeyer49@gmail.com
Deb Hay, Office Manager – stpauls@stpauls-nbpt.org
Office: 978-465-5351

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Wednesday 8AM - 4PM, Thursday - Friday 8AM - 2PM

#### **Websites**

Diocese of Massachusetts <u>www.diomass.org</u> St. Paul's Church <u>www.stpaulsnewburyport.org</u>

# Easter Flower Remembrances

#### In Memory of:

Cindy Abby

Eleanor Abby

Robert Abby

Dorothy and Henry Arnold

Bob Bishop

Michael H. Blake

Willard C. Calkins

Frances P. Calkins

Lee Calkins-Hutt

Susan Calkins-Smith

Robert & Martha Elliott

Frank & Margaret Flint

The Rev. James William Kellett

George & Shirley Thayer

David Maslen

Mary Nelson

Rosie V. Quigley

Michael Rines

Hilda & Robert Rowe

Frank Michael Perry Sexton

Susan Simonds Sexton

**Small Family Members** 

Laura Jukins Stabile

Betty & Buck Stearns

Stearns Family Members

R. Virginia Teed

Joan & Akin Toffey

Akin Toffey, Jr.

Harry & Mary Trout

TudyKenneth Webber

James Alan White

Leonard E. Winslow

Mary Jane Woodside

#### In Thanksgiving for:

Rosita

Walter & Shirley Thayer

Tudy