

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 30 APRIL 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

HYMN 203

- Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King. To all the world glad news we bring: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 2 The Lord of Life is risen for ay: bring flowers of song to strew his way; let all the earth rejoice and say: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- ³ Praise we in songs of victory that Love, that Life, which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 4 Thy name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing to-day with one accord the life laid down, the life restored: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

GREETING

In the name of the living God: Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you and also with you.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

CONFESSION

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LESSON

Acts 2.42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

The Lord / is my / shepherd: therefore / can I / lack / nothing. Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

He will make me lie down in / green / pastures: and / lead me \cdot be-/-side still / waters.

He will re-/-fresh my / soul: and guide me in right pathways / for his / name's / sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will / fear no / evil: for you are with me * your / rod · and your / staff / they comfort me.

You spread a table before me * in the face of / those who / trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil / and my / cup · will be / full.

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me * all the / days · of my / life: and I shall dwell in the / house · of the / Lord for / ever.

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son: and / to the / Holy / Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and / ever / shall be: world without / end./ A-/-men.

LESSON

1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from the First Letter of Peter:

¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' ²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by

his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 664

- How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
 'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.
- 3 Dear name! the rock on which I build, my shield and hiding-place, my never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.
- 4 Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King, my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.
- 5 Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought; but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath; and may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death.

John 10:1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The appointed preacher offers a sermon.

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, The Nicene Creed

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 from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

INTERCESSIONS

A member of the congregation offers prayers.

PEACE

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you, **and also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 499 (VERSES 1-4, TUNE 315)

- Lord, you give the great commission: 'Heal the sick and preach the word.' Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity; with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
- 2 Lord, you call us to your service: 'In my name baptize and teach.' That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervour, draw us closer in community; with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
- ³ Lord, you make the common holy: 'This my body, this my blood.' Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward, asking that the world around us share your children's liberty; with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.
- Lord, you show us love's true measure;
 'Father, what they do, forgive.'
 Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
 May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;
 with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring: 'I am with you to the end.' Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend, and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity; with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. [Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.]

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again. Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The celebrant distributes communion.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World John Goss (1800-1880)

COMMUNION HYMN 681 (TUNE 683)

- In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear; and safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here: the storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid; but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?
- Wherever he may guide me, no want shall turn me back; my Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack: his wisdom ever waketh, his sight is never dim, he knows the way he taketh, and I will walk with him.
- ³ Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen; bright skies will soon be o'er me, where darkest clouds have been; my hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free; my Saviour has my treasure, and he will walk with me.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 671

- I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, how he left the realms of glory for the cross of Calvary. Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.
- 2 I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray, raised me up and gently led me back into the narrow way.

Days of darkness still may meet me, sorrow's paths I oft may tread; but his presence still is with me, by his guiding hand I'm led.

³ He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet; then he'll bear me safely over, made by grace for glory meet. Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are taking a collection during all of the services in the church building through the offering plate and through a tap and pay card reading system at the back of the church. PayPal and standing orders are also possible through our website or by contacting the church Treasurer. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.