

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25 & 26, 2026
Mass ~ Rite II ~ Year A



Saint John's Episcopal Church

515 E. Division Street, Springfield, MO 65803
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The Right Reverend Amy Daffler Meaux, Bishop
The Reverend Benjamin George-Thoms, Rector
Kevin Grice, Director of Music
Mark O'Dell, Senior Warden
Linda Robertson, Junior Warden

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Opening Voluntary

Introit

The loving-kindness of the LORD filleth the whole world, alleluia.
By the word of the LORD the heavens were stablishèd, alleluia, alleluia.
Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous; for it becometh well the just to be thankful. Glory be....

[standing]

The Processional Hymn

“All the people that on earth do dwell”

Hymnal 377

Opening Salutation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect for Purity

Prayer Book 355

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.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Hymnal S278

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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

[seated]

The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me* (sung by the choir at 10:30 a.m.)

- 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.

The Epistle 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

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

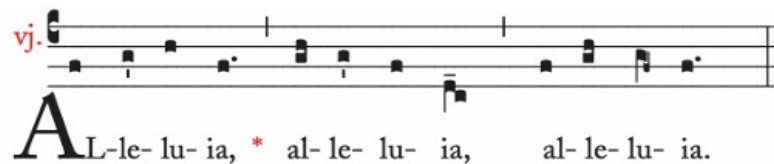
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence Hymn

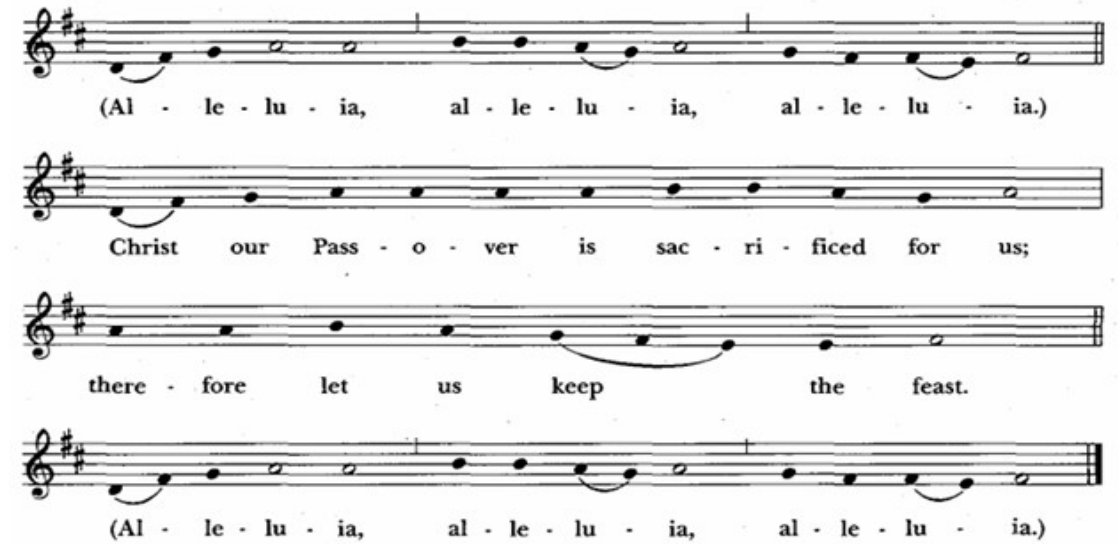
“Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing”

Hymnal 334



Alleluia Verse: *I am the good Shepherd: and know my sheep and am known of mine.* (choir)

Fraction Anthem: “Christ our Passover”



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

If you have been baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; you are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

“The King of love my shepherd is”

Hymnal 645

The Postcommunion Prayer *[Kneeling]*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Blessing *[Stand]*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting 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

“Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!”

Hymnal 205

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Concluding Voluntary

Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version.

resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus: Holy, holy, holy Hymnal S128

*[Kneel as able, stand]
The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words the Celebrant holds or lays a hand upon the bread; and at the words concerning the cup, he holds or lays a hand upon the cup or any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it do this for the remembrance of me."

Memorial Acclamation Therefore we proclaim the mystery the faith:
Celebrant and People

**Christ has died
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer Prayer Book 364 / Hymnal S119

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

✠ **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Saint John** 10:1-10

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon *[seated]* Cheryl Calvin Moon

The Nicene Creed *[Stand as able.]* Prayer Book 358

The Prayers of the People (Form V) *[kneeling]* Prayer Book 389

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Confession and Absolution Prayer Book 360

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem: "The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus" Mark Schweizer

Hymn: "Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult" Hymnal 550

The Great Thanksgiving The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer A) Prayer Book 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

[kneeling]

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious