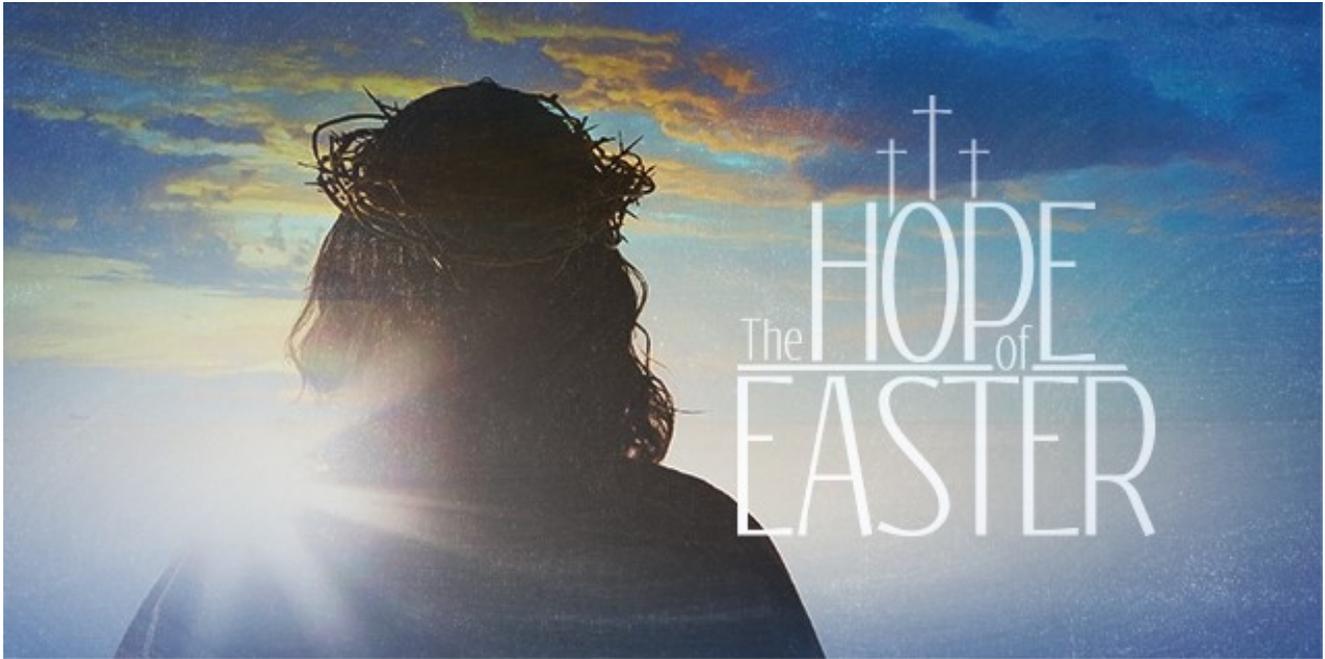


ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday, April 12, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. George's! We are blessed by your attendance at our worship today.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH: A LITURGICAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Church is a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Church of England was birthed as a response to the people's intellectual inquiry into the roots of Christianity during the time of reformation in the sixteenth century. The Church of England and reformers found within the Bible a way of belief that relied more on the grace of God than on human attempts to earn God's favor. One of the distinctions in the Anglican expression of worship is that the congregation takes an active role in the worship services. Our worship is called "liturgy" a word that means "the work of the people"—both lay and ordained.

A Word to the Newcomer

***Welcome to St. George's Church!** This booklet contains an order (Rite Two) for the service of Baptism and Holy Communion or "Eucharist" – a word meaning Thanksgiving" in Greek. **This order for service can also be found in the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on p. 299.** Since the beginning of the Church, the Holy Spirit has gathered Christians together to break bread and give thanks to God the Father for what He has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ (Acts 2:42).*

About Baptism

In our baptism we are all called to actively represent Christ. We make promises or renew these promises at every baptism of which we are a part. We promise by our prayers and witness to help the person being baptized "grow in the full stature of Christ" (BCP 302). We join in with the person being baptized, or their sponsors in the case of a child, to reaffirm our own belief in the Trinity by reciting the Apostles' Creed and we also promise to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers; to persevere in resisting evil, and to repent and return to the Lord when we do sin. We promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves. And, we promise to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being (BCP 304 –305). We take seriously the ministry of the baptized.

The Collect for All Baptised Christians

Grant, Lord God to all who have been baptized into death and resurrection of your son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be reformed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. ✠Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

A Reading from Acts

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

At the end of the lesson, the reader will conclude with

The Word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-17 from BCP (read responsively by the half verse)

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**

Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."

The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the LORD.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

Then, all standing the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

Renewal of Our Baptismal Covenant

BCP 304

The Celebrant says

Please join me as we renew our Baptismal Covenant.

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, his 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.

Renewing Our Commitment to Christ

BCP 305

The Celebrant says to the congregation

Let us now pray for those whom *have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ and loving their neighbors as themselves.

A person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

A Corona Virus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

The Celebrant says

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 again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hymnal 207

The Dismissal

✠Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Give thanks—Eucharist means to give thanks. We unite our voices and spirits to give thanks to God for his many blessings!

You may send us your Easter offering.

Here are some good ways to do that:

Bank Bill Pay—You can set it up with your bank/credit union to each month (or week?) automatically write a check that is mailed to the church. For many institutions, you don't even have to pay for this service or stamps.

Regular Mail—Mail in your pledge to the church.

PayPal—This will be accessible through our website.