

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



EASTER *Worship Booklet*

Sunday, April 26, 2020
Virtual Service 9:30 a.m. on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgestc/>

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

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You can find our Current and Past Bulletins for Virtual Services on our website at:
<https://www.stgeorgestc.org/sunday-worship-services-online/>

Consider giving a special Easter Offering.

Welcome to St. George's

Whether you are here for the first time or the thousandth time, we are glad you have chosen to join us for worship today. As each and every person gathers here to worship God, we all are strengthened and able to offer a fuller worship than we can apart. We are blessed by your presence.

Church Seasons: Easter is a festival season of fifty days whose first day is Easter Day, the Sunday of the Resurrection, and whose last day is the Day of Pentecost. Easter begins after sundown on Holy Saturday. The celebration of Easter historically is initiated with the Easter Vigil, which can be observed after sundown but ideally is kept just before sunrise, so that the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection comes with the dawn of the new day or beginning of a new way of life. In our church, we celebrate Easter at our regular service times. Easter Day is the principal feast of the church year and the color is white symbolizing the purity we have been given through Christ's blood sacrifice for us. In most languages the name of the day is Pascha, which means "Passover." As Christians we believe Jesus Christ's sacrifice as the Lamb of God is the ultimate and final sacrifice for our sins. No other blood sacrifice need be paid on our behalf. During the Easter season we recall our Baptismal covenant with its key promises and commitments. (see page 304 in the book of Common Prayer). We remember through Baptism we died to sin and were resurrected with Jesus Christ and made new. In baptism we put on Christ, marked with the anointing oil as a symbol of receiving the Holy Spirit and sealed as Christ's own forever. Nothing can separate us from God having been given this seal. This marks the beginning of new life through Christ, and opens an opportunity to start anew. We recently reaffirmed our baptismal vows with the nine people baptized, in which we recommitted and made covenant with God to turn from the darkness and evil and turn to the light and God, continuing in the teaching of the apostles and when we sin repenting and turning back to God. This is the way for those who believe. It is the way of the new life of peace we have been given through Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus Christ is Risen today!

Ways to be Connected to Community

Online Services at 9:30 AM on Facebook Live
(Facebook Page: St Georges Texas City)

The Resurrected Life Bible Study at 11 AM on Zoom!
(Sundays April 19th—May 31st)

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Liturgy of the Word of God

Processional Hymn

Shepherd of Souls

Hymn 343

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

The Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

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

The Celebrant then says the following prayer that our hearts may be made pure for worship

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.***

The Trisagion

BCP 356

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

The Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Lector A Reading (Lesson) from Acts 2:14a,36-41.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

The Gospel

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

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.

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Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

BCP 360

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory

Offer thanks unto the Lord who is worthy of our praise. You may send your offering by mailing it in to St. George's or by going online https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=95TAURM9D63YU or you can go to www.stgeorgestc.org and click contact us—this will give you the option to give online.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Christ is Raised and Dies No More

Hymn 296

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.