



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Easter Festive Eucharist  
April 8, 2012, 9:30 am

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

We worship today according to the appointed order for Easter,  
beginning on page 285 of the Book of Common Prayer.

### **The Lighting of the Paschal Candle**

*Our worship begins with the sounding of the shofar  
to mark the Resurrection of Our Lord*

Processional Hymn

*Come Ye. Faithful, Raise the Strain*..... 199

*During the Processional Hymn, the Paschal Candle enters unlit.*

Collect for the Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted, and the Deacon bearing the Candle leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Deacon sings the Exsultet.*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,  
and let your trumpets shout Salvation  
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,  
bright with a glorious splendor,  
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,  
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,  
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,  
pray with me to God the Almighty  
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;  
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Exsultet continues.*

Holy Father, accept our Easter sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning — he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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### **The Liturgy of the Word**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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 people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 280)*

**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 for Easter

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to the 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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm – Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Refrain:

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

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 LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
**but he did not hand me over to death.**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
**I will enter them;**

**I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

"This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
**he who is righteous may enter."**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
**and have become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the LORD'S doing, \*  
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Refrain:

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

Hymn

*Alleluia, Alleluia*.....178

*During the singing of this hymn, all who wish  
to do so may bring flowers to place on the cross.*

The Epistle – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Sequence – John 20:1-18 (the people stand)

Hymn – *He is Risen*.....180

Verses 1-2

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glorify to You, Lord Christ.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two

were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Hymn – *He is Risen*.....180  
Verses 3-4

Sermon  
*Three Ways to Live and Continue into Resurrection*

The Renewal of Baptism Vows

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

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

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

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

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

**I will, with God's help.**

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 Prayers of the People (Form III, page 387 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Father, we pray for the Church of the Resurrection, Gadsden; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Department of Parish Development and Evangelism; for Habitat for Humanity and all programs for the promotion of safe and affordable housing; and for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Katharine, our presiding bishop, for Kee, our bishop, for Arnold, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Barack, our President; for Robert, our governor; for George, our mayor; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for these persons: *The Lay Reader reads the first names from the Parish Prayer List: the Stewart family, Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Zoe Bush, John Rand, Dawn Jones (Jere and Pam VanEtten), Jim Cantrell (Al Cantrell), Xander Kerr (Jean Kerr), Amber, Jared and Dezsel Oliver (Kathy Haynie), Troy Warlick (Kathy Haynie), Emmet Nolan (Maurice McCord), Mary Alice Merith (Shea Boland), Harold Baker (B&R), Michelle*

Waswaller (Al Cantrell), **Annie Lee** Dubose (B&R), **Melvin Cannon** (B&R), **Emmy Moncrief** (B&R), **Carol** (B&R), **all those living in nursing homes** (B&R), **Mike, Cindy, Johnnie,** and **Kelly** (Ann Easley), **Neil** Sharpton (Lee Borden), and **Brandon** Boland (Cathy Jones).

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*The People may add their own petitions.*

### Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

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## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory Hymn

*Alleluia, He Is Coming.....SH-72*

### The Presentation

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*The people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 129)*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

**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.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in  
remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in  
your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then  
immediately deliver it to the people.*

Communion Hymn  
*Father, I Adore You*.....SH-36

*After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the  
Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn (the people stand)  
*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*.....207

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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Heading Image: "He is gone!" from [www.brokenbelievers.com](http://www.brokenbelievers.com).

Please remain immediately following the Easter Festive Eucharist for a picture of members and guests on the church steps. An Easter egg hunt will follow, and then we will enjoy lunch in the parish hall.

The shofar is an ancient Jewish instrument made from a ram's horn. Traditionally for Jews, the sound of the shofar marks the beginning of Rosh HaShanah and the High Holy Days. We Christians have adopted it as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The shofar that Caleb plays this morning (it helps that he's a competition-level French horn player) belongs to Father Arnold.

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### Serving at Epiphany today:

Shofar: Caleb Hart  
Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon  
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams  
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie  
Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray  
Deacon: Lee Borden  
Refreshments: Everyone  
Stewards: Mike Edwards and Ann Easley

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## *Easter lilies given by*

### **Lee and Amanda Borden (2)**

- in thanksgiving for Joe, Michelle, and Smith Borden, Adrian and Eli Olson, and Norma Johnson
- in memory of John and Winifred Borden, Wallace Welch, and Harold Johnson

### **Arnold Bush (2)**

- in thanksgiving for his ten grandchildren

### **John and Kathy Haynie (2)**

- in memory of Alice and Orris Haynie
- in memory of Buddy Oliver and Ann Warlick

### **Jean Kerr (2)**

- in memory of Paul Kerr and Warren & Maldon Williamson
- in thanksgiving for her family and her church family

### **Bill Shell**

- in memory of Maldon Williamson
- in memory of Warren Williamson

### **Jimmy and Betty Weldon**

- in thanksgiving for their families

### **Laura Williams (2)**

- in thanksgiving for Michael, Allen, & Llwyd Williams
- in memory of Frank Gordon Tucker, June Soan Sims, & Thomas Ronald Williams

## *Support of the nursery*

Thank you for all your generous donations for the improvements in the nursery. Watch the bulletin and the church web site for a comprehensive list of all the donors and what they have been kind enough to provide.