



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Third Sunday of Easter  
April 22, 2012, 9:30 am

“. . . Repentance and forgiveness is to be  
proclaimed in his name to all nations . . .”

Luke 24:47

We worship during Easter according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two,  
beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

### The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn  
*He is Risen, He is Risen*.....180

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.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

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 people sit)

The First Lesson – Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw the astonishment of those who had seen  
the lame man healed, he addressed the people, "You  
Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at  
us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him  
walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God  
of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant  
Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence  
of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you  
rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a  
murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom  
God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by  
faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong,  
whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus  
has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did  
also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold  
through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.  
Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be  
wiped out."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm – Psalm 4

Refrain:

**Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O  
LORD.**

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
**you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
**how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"**

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
**when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.**

Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
**speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
**and put your trust in the LORD.**

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \*  
**Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O  
LORD.**

You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
**more than when grain and wine and oil increase.**

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
**for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

Refrain:  
**Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.**

The Epistle – 1 John 1:3-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins; and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 24:36b-48 (the people stand)

Hymn – *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*.....193  
Verses 1-3

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

While the disciples were telling how they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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

Hymn – *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*.....193  
Verses 4-5

Sermon

The Nicene Creed (*the people stand*)

**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, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

The Prayers of the People (Form IV, page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray for St. Mark's, Birmingham; for St. Mark's, Prattville; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; and for El Hogar Home and School, Honduras. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

## The Holy Communion

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal 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 Dezel** Oliver (Kathy Haynie), **Troy Warlick** (Kathy Haynie), **Emmet Nolan** (Maurice McCord), **Mary Alice Merith** (Shea Boland), **Harold Baker** (B&R), **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), **Brandon Boland** (Cathy Jones), and **James Wray Bush** (Arnold Bush).

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

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

### The Offertory Hymn

*I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord*.....304

### 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.

**Glorify 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: *God Is So Good*

**God is so good, God is so good.  
God is so good, He's so good to me.**

**He took my sin . . .  
Now I am free . . .**

*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*)

*Alleluia, Alleluia*.....178

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

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Page 1 image: "Appearance to the Apostles," by Duccio di Buoninsegna. Duccio was trained in the rigid Byzantine style of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but he began a transition toward the International Gothic style. Our image is one of a series of panels flanking the image of the Virgin Mary, collectively called "The Maesta" and since dismantled. This and several other panels are currently in the Siena Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Italy.

Please mark your calendars for next Sunday, April 29, when the Rev. Canon Pat Wingo will serve as our supply priest. Pat is the Deputy for Ministry Development for the Alabama Diocese of the Episcopal Church. During Sunday School, he will share some helpful ideas for congregational development. Pat has been working with our vestry on succession issues, and this will be a great chance for all of us to meet him and get to know him better.

A hearty congratulations to Caleb Hart, who was named the best high school French horn player in Alabama last weekend at the All-State band festival. We're so proud of you, Caleb!

### Serving at Epiphany today:

Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie  
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones and Ann Easley  
Lay Reader: Maurice McCord  
Chalice Bearer: Laura Williams  
Refreshments: Jean Kerr  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord