

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Easter Eucharist
March 31, 2013, 10:30 am

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

Processional Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*.....178

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 Priest 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 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.**

Hymn: *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*.....205
Verses 1 and 2

Collect for Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ 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.

The Epistle – 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Hymn: *Low in the Grave He Lay*

Low in the grave He lay - Jesus, my Savior!

Waiting the coming day - Jesus, my Lord!

Chorus:

Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;

He arose a victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

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

Glory 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: *Low in the Grave He Lay*

Death cannot keep his prey - Jesus, my Savior!

He tore the bars away - Jesus, my Lord!

(Chorus)

Sermon

The Rev Brandt Montgomery

The Renewal of Baptism Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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 people, 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 Church of the Resurrection, Rainbow City; our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; Department of Parish Development and Evangelism; Habitat for Humanity and all programs for the promotion of safe and affordable housing; the interfaith Hospitality Network; 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, 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 Bobby, 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 **Lynda** Denton, **Dot** Harris, **Alice** Williams, **Charlotte** and **Lannon** Poole, **Pam** Harper, **Amber**, **Jared** and **Dezsel** Oliver (Kathy Haynie), **Brandon** Boland (Cathy Jones), **Chris** Eady (Lynne Eady), **Lisa** Wallace (Laura Williams), **Jenna** Moates (Kelli Kerr), **John** Myer (Ann Easley, John and Kathy Haynie), **Ed** Clayton (Jean Kerr), **Billie** Wilkinson, **Lindsey** Burt (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Melinda** Henderson (Ann Easley), **Kathy** Brumbleloe (Ann Easley), **Lee** Musso (Cathy Jones), **Oletta** Goodwin, **Sherry** Gritz, (Arnold Bush), **Jackie** Henderson (Ann Easley), **Kyle** Pearson (Arnold Bush).

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

The People may add their own petitions. The Celebrant may add a suitable Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn

Alleluia, He Is Coming.....SH-72
Verses 1 and 4

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

(Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP p 372)

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.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

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

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **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: *In the Garden*.....SH-41
Verses 1 and 2

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

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

Recessional Hymn (the people stand)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.....207

Easter lilies given by

Lee and Amanda Borden (2)

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

Greg Dubay (4)

- in thanksgiving for Lynne B. Eady, my fiancée
- in thanksgiving for Ivan & Evelyn Dubay, Gregory V. Dubay, Jr., Pam Burnett, Chris Eady, Christy, Jessy, Nikki, and Ashley
- in thanksgiving for my beloved priests: Father Sharpton & Father Bush
- in thanksgiving for my failures and successes through which I have learned and grown

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Dubay

- in thanksgiving for Greg Dubay and Lynne Eady

Nancy and Bobby Dupree (2)

- in thanksgiving for our wonderful family
- in memory of Nancy's father, Russ Jones, and Bobby's parents, Robert and Frances Dupree

Jean Kerr (2)

- in thanksgiving for family
- in memory of Paul Kerr, and Maldon and Warren Williamson

Charlotte and Lannon Poole (3)

- in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Parris
- in memory of Dr. and Mrs. William Poole, Sr.
- in memory of Chuck Dial

Jim and John Rand

- in memory of Joe, Ann, and Celia Rand

Jere and Pam Van Etten (2)

- in memory of Peggy Jane Jones, Ed & Peggy Palmer, Bob & Flo Van Etten, Robert Van Etten, and Randy Jones
- in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren and Epiphany Church

Jimmy and Betty Weldon (2)

- in memory of our loved ones who are no longer with us: Mary Ellen, Harold, Gene, Louise, Robert, Denise, Beverly, Ronnie, Mike, Randy, and Rhonda
- in thanksgiving for Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Laura T. Williams

- in thanksgiving for my husband Michael & our sons Allen & Llwyd

Please remain immediately following the Easter Eucharist for a picture of members and guests on the church steps and lunch in the parish hall.

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Jimmy and Betty Weldon
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon
Lay Reader: Nancy Dupree

Chalice Bearer: Lee Borden
Refreshments: Jean Kerr
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord

and next . . .

Ushers: Maurice and Debra McCord
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon

Chalice Bearer: Jere Van Etten
Refreshments: Laura Williams
Stewards: Jere and Pam Van Etten
