

"The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2013, 10:30 am

Psalms 23:1

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: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*....645

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 of Praise: *My Holy Shepherd*.....SH-50
Verses 1, 3, & 7

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your
people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him
who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who,
with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha,
which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works
and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died.
When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.
Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that
Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request,
"Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went
with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room
upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and
showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made
while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and
then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and
said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and
seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped
her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to
be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many
believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some
time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 23

Refrain:

**The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's
sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who
trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Refrain:

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

The Epistle – Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no
one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and
peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their
hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the
elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their
faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are
these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I
said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said
to me, "These are they who have come out of the great
ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white
in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

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.

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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 Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*.....691

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:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.....708

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*):

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing.....205

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Announcements:

- We are delighted to welcome back Rob Morpeth to serve as our supply priest today. Rob is Staff Officer for Finance & Administration with the Alabama Diocese.
- It's still not too late to buy tickets to the Epiphany Garden Party, but you need to buy them today. The cost is \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, see Cathy Jones.
- ECW (Episcopal Christian Women) will meet in the Little House during the fellowship time immediately following worship.
- Many thanks and our hearty congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Dubay (Lynne Eady), who were married in the nave yesterday. Greg and Lynne have provided the flowers in the chancel today.

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Usher: Maurice McCord
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: Nancy Dupree
Piano: Caleb Hart

Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray
Refreshments: Ann Easley
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper

and next . . .

Ushers: Laura Williams and Amanda Borden
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones
Lay Reader: Lee Borden
Piano: Caleb Hart

Chalice Bearer: Jean Kerr
Refreshments: To be determined
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord