Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021

✣ THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✣

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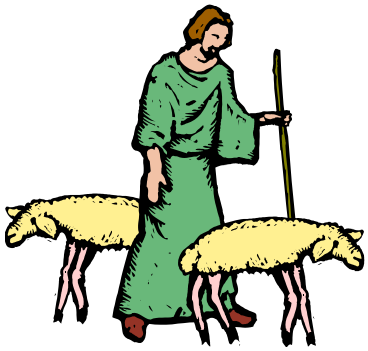

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Salutation Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Alleluia! Christ is risen! ***The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Collect for Purity *(unison)*

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of praise: Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast – not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death that he d ied, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So also consider yourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

THE WORD OF GOD

Collect of the day: *(unison)* 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.

First Lesson ***Acts 4:5-12***

The day after they had arrested Peter and John for teaching about Jesus and the resurrection, the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John and Alexander and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved."

Response: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me* ***BCP 612***

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

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 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.

Epistle ***1 John 3:16-24***

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. *Response:* ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel : John 10:11-18 *Response:* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because he does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice; so there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." *Response:* ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Homily Rev. Chris Babo

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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. Amen.

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

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THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer D BCP 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 God 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 say, ***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.

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 all 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 Justin, Michael, Sean, Carol, Dick and all who minister to your Church; this congregation, St. Peter's, and all who minister to the world. Strengthen our witness to your love and care; help us in all our needs.

Remember all your people, especially those under persecution, all who suffer for justice and peace, and all who seek your truth.

Remember our national and local leaders, that they may serve justice and fulfill their duties in integrity and up-

rightness. Save us from ignorance, deceit and tyranny; heal our nation's wounds and defeat our enemies without and within.

Remember those who suffer from terror, despair, abuse, slavery, disease, loneliness, addiction, homelessness, violence, sorrow, constant pain, unemployment, injustice, ignorance. Deliver them from their trouble and give us hearts to recognise and minister to their needs.

Remember those dear to us who need your strength and help: David, Reid, Bill, Sue, Martha, Janet, Jim, Katie, Carlo, Ian, Peggy, Gayle, Jason, Dale, Joseph, Juanita, John, Gianna, Mia, Susie, Amber, John and Becky, Pat, Ron, Catherine, Ken, Mark, Marissa, Dorothy, Ed, Brady, Payton, Char and Dick, Terry, Maddie, Davey and Roland.

Remember those who put themselves at risk on others' behalf: Lisa, Scott, Nick, Kelly, Sean, Jane, Rich, Chris and Becky, William; Corey, Danny, Keith, Morgan, Cordell, Chris, Zach, Harrison, David, Jennifer, Ryan and Jade, Mack, Mason, Makayla, Natalie and Nathan, Vince, Geo, Sam, Jordan, Justin and Caitlyn, Isaac.

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 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 for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven: hallowed be your name; your Kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial; and deliver us from evil; for the Kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Communion + All are invited to partake, physically and/or spiritually.

Prayer after Communion: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE CHURCH GOES FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

Dismissal *Response:* ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every morning is Easter morning from now on! And every Sunday is a feast of the resurrection. As we meditate on what that means for each and all of us, we seek to express in our worship and in our lives the joy that new life brings. Jesus's resurrection message is 'You shall be my witnesses' – that means all of us, bringing the good news of Jesus and his church to everyone we know.

The emphasis in today's Gospel on Jesus as Shepherd of all resonates with us especially in this week when we have heard the verdict in the George Floyd murder, and celebrated Earth Day. Let us pray that the Beloved Community have hope, courage and strength to stand up for our Lord's ways in a world that needs them so badly.