

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Festal Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Organ Voluntary March upon a theme of Händel, Op. 15, No. 2 *Alexandre Guilmant*
Sean Price, organ (1837-1911)

The Lighting of the New Fire (8:15am)

The Release of the Alleluias (10:15am)

Please stand

Opening Hymn Jesus Christ is risen today *Hymn 207*

The Greeting

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
People 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 Easter Song of Praise *Hymnal 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 of the Day

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

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.**

Leader: Behold! Listen!
Congregation: **This is important!**

Collect for the Community (*Read together in unison*)

Gracious God, strengthen in us the two values that we hold central as a Christian Community. These values are inspired by Jesus' two great commandments. First, we love God or something greater than ourselves with all our hearts and mind, and second we commit to loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. There is no boundary or condition to our love and commitment to God or to our neighbor, no matter who they may be. All are welcome in this place. Amen.

Please be seated for the readings

The First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other 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 (*Call and respond, alternating by verse*)

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

2 **Let Israel now proclaim, * "His mercy endures for ever."**

14 The LORD is my strength and my song, * and he has become my salvation.

15 **There is a sound of exultation and victory * in the tents of the righteous:**

16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! * the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"

17 **I shall not die, but live, * and declare the works of the LORD.**

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

19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness; * I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

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

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

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

23 **This is the LORD's doing, * and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

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

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

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.**

Sequence Hymn (*standing*)

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Hymn 200

The Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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.**

Please be seated

The Sermon

The Rev. C. Melissa Hall

Please stand

The Nicene Creed *(Recited In Unison)*

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 human. 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.

Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, we pray 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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray 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 our own needs and those of others.
Silence

We invite you now to make your own prayers and thanksgivings aloud or in the privacy of your heart.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Please be seated

Offertory Anthem Hallelujah Chorus (from “Mount of Olives”) *Ludwig van Beethoven*
Sung by the Saint James Choir (1770-1827)

Doxology with Alleluias

Sung to the Tune of Hymn 400

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

Eucharistic Prayer A *(all standing)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymnal S-125

**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.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia, Christ our Passover

Hymnal S-155

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Invitation

Celebrant: 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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Almighty God, we believe that you are truly present in this Holy Sacrament. Whether we can be at your table or not, we unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Communion Hymns

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks
Now the green blade riseth
Through the Red Sea brought at last

Hymn 178

Hymn 204

Hymn 187

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray

People: Almighty and everliving 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.

Post-Communion Motet

Hallelujah Chorus from "Messiah"
Sung by the St. James Choir

Georg Friedrich Händel

(1685-1759)

The Blessing and Benediction

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Please stand

Closing Hymn

Welcome Happy Morning

Hymn 179

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary

Fugue in G Major, BWV 541b
Sean Price, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

The Pealing of the Memorial Tower Bells (10:15am)



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

581 VALLEY ROAD, UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043
(973) 744-0270

[HTTP://WWW.STJAMESEPISCOPAL.ORG](http://www.stjamesepiscopal.org)
PARISHSECRETARY@STJAMESEPISCOPAL.ORG

The Rev. C. Melissa Hall, Rector

The Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook, Assistant Rector
Mr. Sean Price, Director of Music Ministries
The Rev. Deacon Jill Singleton, Parish Secretary
Mr. Zachary Zembower, Videographer

The Rev. Dr. Walter Lewis, Assisting Priest
Ms. Martha Boughner, Verger
Ms. Bettylou O'Dell, Business Manager
Ms. Cathlyn Robinson, MSN, RN, Parish Nurse

Acolytes

Finn Tobin, Calvin Goodrich, Eddie Tobin (8:15am)

Robert Brown (thurifer), Oliver Wagner, Ian Samuels, Jackson Pagliaro, Jake Parkerton (10:15am)

Lectors

Jackson Bangs & Susan Hecht (8:15am)

Martha Boughner & Christine Tobin (10:15am)

Ushers

Jackson Bangs (8:15am)

Phil Delp, Kipling Simpson, Laurie Sutton (10:15am)

The St. James Vestry

Michael Porcelli (Senior Warden)
Martha Boughner
Kerri McMahon
Joanne Torrisi
Karen Mingo-Campbell
Romesh Sukhdeo

Angela Bylancik (Junior Warden)
Tara Lewis
Phil Delp
Richard Schmermund
Enver Acevedo
Angela Pagliaro