

St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 9:30 am

Welcome to St. Francis. Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

THE PRELUDE

All stand, as able.
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lord, whose love through humble service

Hymnal p. 610



Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt. Copyright © 1961, Albert Bayly. Used by permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Blaenhafren*, Welsh melody.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT OF PURITY

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (S-280)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.**

All sit for the lessons

FIRST LESSON Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Book of Common Prayer p. 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 those who trouble me; * 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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

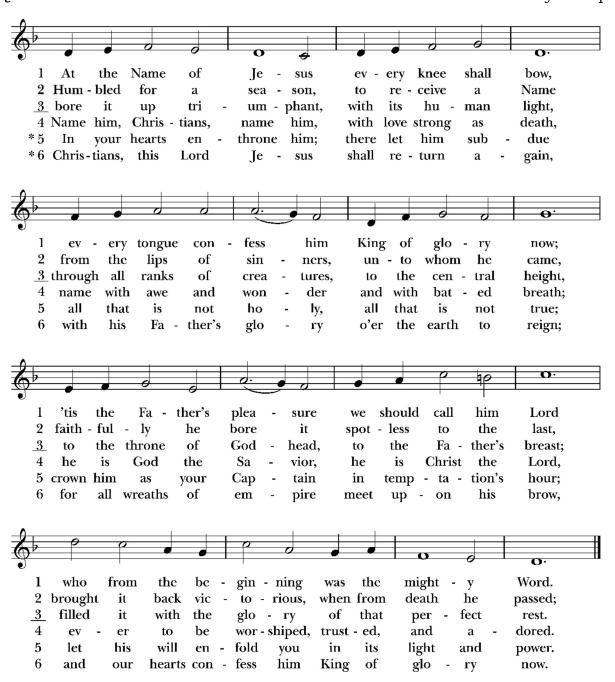
SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from the First Letter of John.

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.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: King's Weston, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

People: 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 a hired hand 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." The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY The Rev. Toni Belhu

Silence may be kept after the homily.

All stand, as able

THE NICENE CREED

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

On the third day he rose again

he ascended into heaven

in accordance with the Scriptures;

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.

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 VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, for Toni our Rector, and for all bishops and other ministers:

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Today we pray especially for Josephine, James, John, Ruth, Bobby, Helen, June, Wesley, Debbie, Charles, Sandra, Sally, Lyn, Jeanne, Lucinda, Mel, Gillian, Fran, Jack, Dee, Charles, Morgan, Chase, the Ruckle family, and all those on our long-term prayer list. Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Paul & Paula McIntosh (27)**.

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Brendan, Will, Christopher, Nick, Chase.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church, St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark's in Gastonia. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant concludes with a collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

All stand, as able



Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: St. Columba, Irish melody, harm. Hymnal 1982.

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology. THE DOXOLOGY

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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer C

The people remain 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory 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.

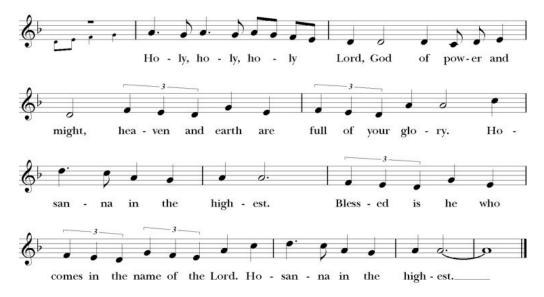
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

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:

SANCTUS Hymnal p. S-129



The Celebrant continues

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 hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

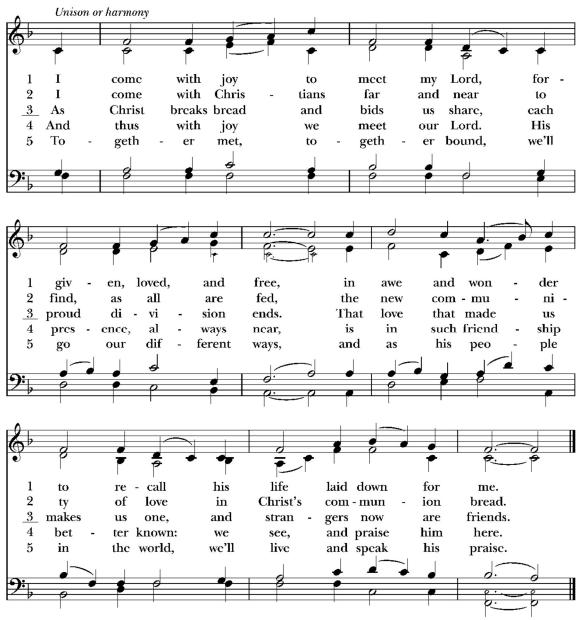
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.

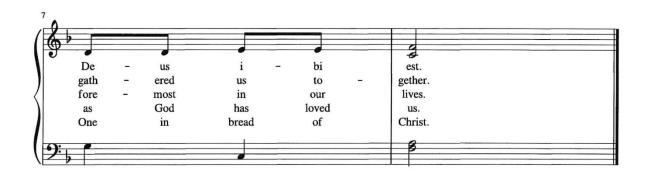


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Words: Latin; tr. James Quinn (b. 1919), alt. Copyright © 1969, James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffery Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Ubi caritas (Murray)*, A. Gregory Murray (1905-1992). By permission of A. Gregory Murray.





THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.

THE BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.



Words: Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902-1983), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*, melody att. Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758), alt.; harm. Johann Löhner (1645-1705), after chorale ver. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: James, Dickinson, Burtches, Zoey, Addison, Keith, Brenda, Tony, Judy, Ricky, Billy, Mary, Greg, Max, Johny, Layla Rose, Ramona, Edwin, Sherry, Mark, the Aytes family, Elora, Oscar, Lynn, Kensley, Malisha, Madison, Jim, Shirley, John, Billy, Beverly, Robin, Ricky, Mary, Shirley, Tony, Haden, Debbie, Chris.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and the people of St. Francis in memory of Rob Bole by Nancy Bole.

Worship Leaders 9:30

Usher – Steve Ross
Greeter – Kathy Demas

1st Lesson – Anita Quinley

2nd Lesson – Kathy Demas
Chalicist – Richard Williams
Acolyte – Stella Turner
Vestry Lock Up – Anita Quinley
Camera – Stephanie Williams
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Allison Ross
Fellowship – Stephanie Williams

Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am

Usher – Richard Williams
Greeter – Barbara Locricchio
1st Lesson – Allison Ross
2nd Lesson – Stacy Guarriello
Chalicist – Harold Morgan
Acolyte – Nancy Bole
Vestry Lock Up – Steve Ross
Camera – Steve Ross
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Tammy Edwards
Fellowship – Patricia Rowe

Saint Francis Episcopal Church

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Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick www.stfrancisrutherfordton.org

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