

# St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 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

### This joyful Eastertide

Hymnal p. 192



Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934), alt. By permission of A.R. Mowbray and Co Ltd. From The Cowley Carol Book by G.R. Woodward and C. Wood. Music: *Vruechten*, melody from *Psalmen*, 1685; harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926).

#### 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

All sit for the lessons

FIRST LESSON Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

Book of Common Prayer p. 787

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*

when brethren live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*

that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*

and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*

that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \*

life for evermore.

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 1:1-2:2

A reading from the First Letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715-1769); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt. Music: St. Albimus, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31

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

# People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week

later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY
Silence may be kept after the homily.

The Rev. Toni Belhu

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.

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.
On the third day he rose again

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 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, Jerri, Lyn, Jeanne, Lucinda, Mel, Lynn, Kensley, Malisha, Madison, Jim, Shirley, John, Billy, Beverly, Robin, Ricky, Mary, Shirley, Haden, Tony, Debbie, Chris, June, Gillian, Fran, Jack, 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 Sally Harbin (7), Dennis Streelman (12), Margie Roberts (12), Mike Saunders (13), Jack Revis (13), Whitney Turner (13).

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, Nicholas, Nathan, Peter, Joseph, Tony, Christian, Brendan, Will, Tom, 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 our Parish of the Holy Communion in Glendale Springs. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria.

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

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



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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.

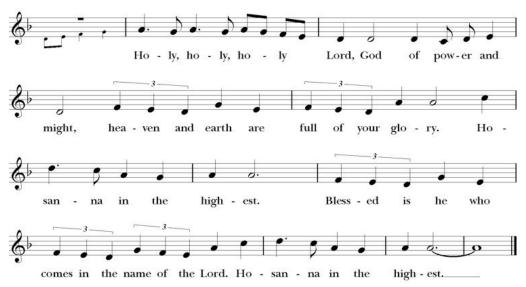
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

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.

During communion, members of our congregation will join together in our choir loft to lead the congregation in singing the communion hymns.



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6 Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871). Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868).



Words: Gloria Gaither (b. 1942) and William Gaither (b. 1936). Music: William Gaither (b. 1936). Copyright © 1971 William J. Gaither. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

# 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.

march-ing,

march-ing, we are

Words: South African; Spanish words, Bernardo Murray (b. 1965). Music: Siyahamba, South African.

#### Verse One

We are marching in the light of God. We are marching, marching, We are marching, oh ohhh, We are marching in the light of God. We are marching, marching, We are marching, oh ohhh, We are marching in the light of God.

#### Verse Two

We are living in the love of God. We are living, living, We are living, oh ohhh, We are living in the love of God. We are living, living, We are living, living, We are living, oh ohhh,

We are living in the love of God.

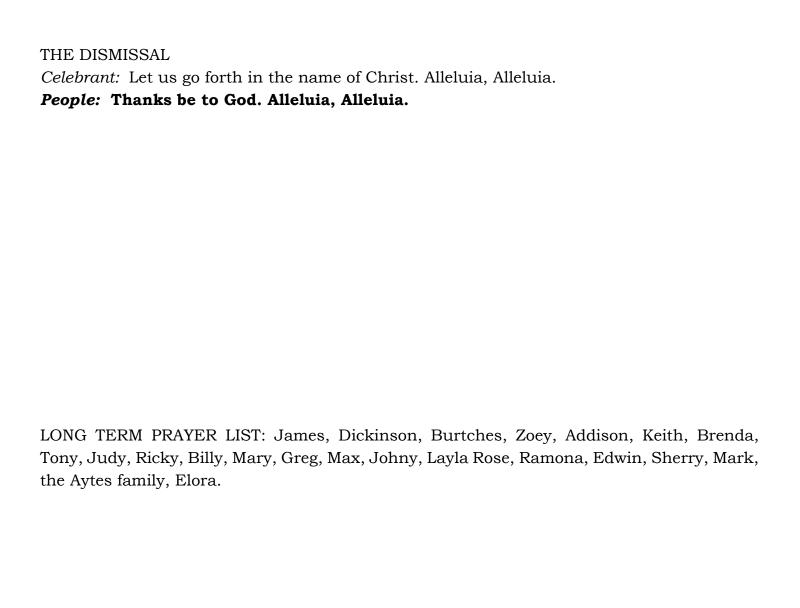
#### Verse Three

We are moving in the power of God.
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, oh ohhh,
We are moving in the power of God.





march-ing in the light



# Worship Leaders 9:30

Usher – Rebecca Melton
Greeter – Paula Hammond
1st Lesson – Beth Revis
2nd Lesson – Anne Stanley
Chalicist – Robin DeLorenzo
Acolyte – Don Corry
Vestry Lock Up – Steve Ross
Camera – Steve Ross
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Stacy Guarriello
Fellowship – Stephanie Williams

# Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am

Usher – Kathy Demas
Greeter – MaryAnn Joyce

1st Lesson – Allison Ross

2nd Lesson – Richard Williams
Chalicist – Walt Joyce
Acolyte – Robin DeLorenzo
Vestry Lock Up – Anne Stanley
Camera – Stephanie Williams
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Judi Gustafson
Fellowship – Nancy Bole

#### Saint Francis Episcopal Church

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Rector: The Rev. Toni Belhu

 ${\it Email:} \ \ \underline{\it rector@stfrancisrutherfordton.org} \text{-}$ 

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Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick

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