

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022
7:30pm



Alleluia! Our **Easter Sunday** morning celebration of Jesus' resurrection begins at 9:30am with **one service**.
Following the service, we will have treats and eats along with an Easter Egg hunt for the children.
All children (with their parents) are invited to hunt for Easter eggs. Meet in the Parish Hall.
We will have treats and eats during coffee hour before & after the service.
Everyone is welcome!

****Be sure to bring some flowers to put on our Easter Cross for Easter Sunday!**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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THE REVEREND STEVE KARCHER, RECTOR

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The Great Vigil of Easter

Service of Light

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

*In the darkness, fire is kindled. The **Celebrant** says*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Process into the Nave and the Paschal Candle is lit and the lights are low.

(Chanted 3 times)

Celebrant: The Light of Christ
People: **Thanks be to God**

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Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

The Blessing

BCP 339

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional

“Alleluia No. 1”

Songs of Praise 4

The Dismissal

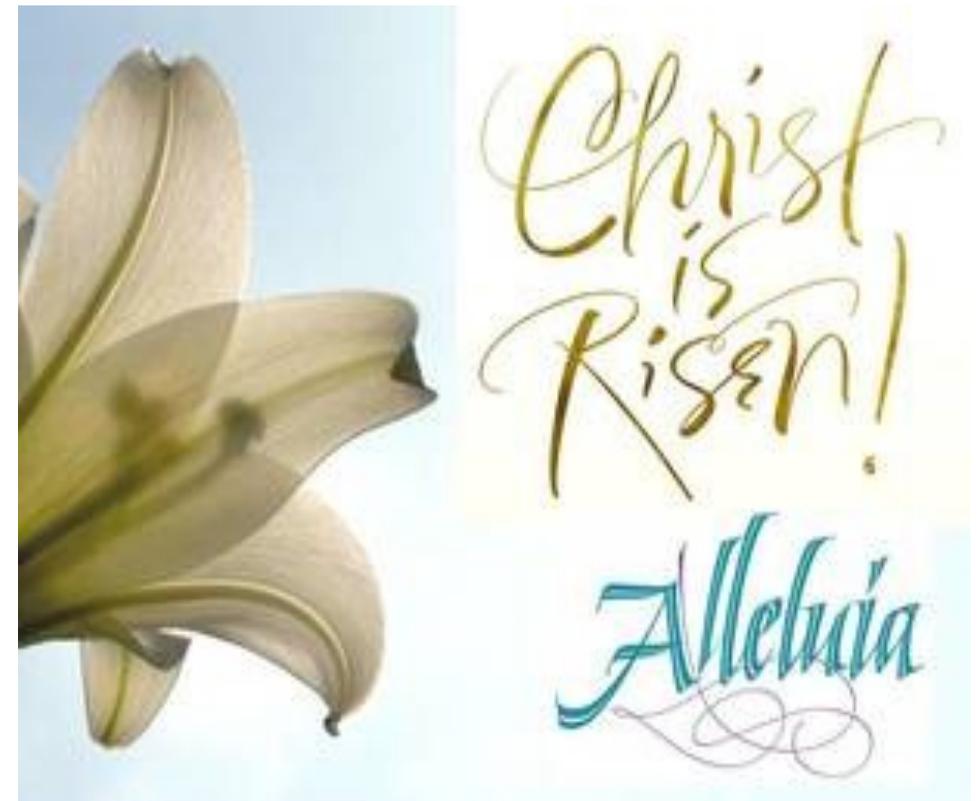
BCP 366

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

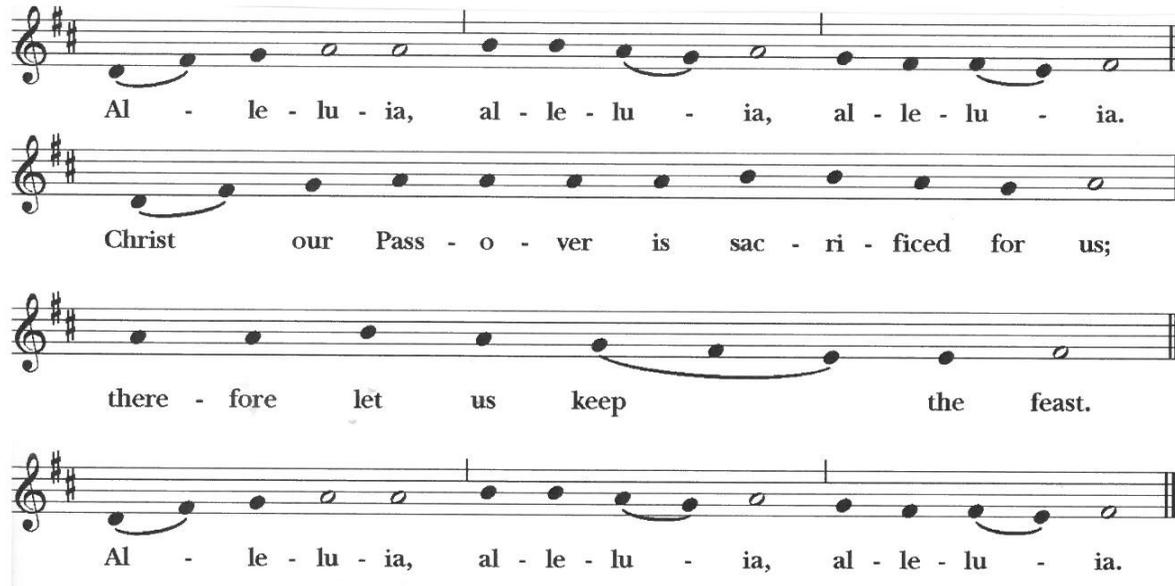
Postlude

Organ



The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S-154/BCP 364



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

(All persons are welcome to come to Jesus' table for Communion or a Blessing.)

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant: 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.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

A New Heart and a New Spirit *Ezekiel 36:24-28* **See Insert**

Psalm 42:1-7 (*All say in unison*) **BCP 643/See Insert**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are 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. **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones *Ezekiel 37:1-14* **See Insert**

Psalm 97 (*All say in unison*) *Dominus regnavit* **BCP 726/See Insert**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: ***I do.***

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: ***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.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: ***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.***

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: ***I will, with God's help.***

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: ***I will, with God's help.***

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows

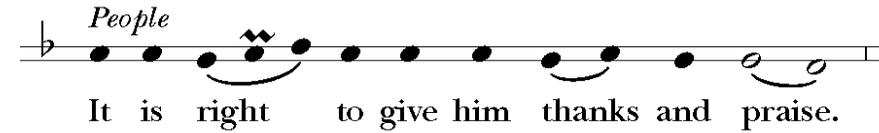
May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The candles at the Altar are lit from the Paschal Candle.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

(Ring the Sanctus bells)



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 Sanctus (sung)

Hymnal S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(please stand or kneel as you are able)

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.

Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sequence Hymn *"The Day Of Resurrection!"* (vs 2,3) **Hymnal 210**

Homily **Fr. Steve Karcher**

Prayers of the People

In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers, saying, "*Christ, have mercy.*"

For peace and tranquility in the world, and for the salvation of all, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Andrew, Hector, Jeff, and Kai, our Bishops, and for all the People of God, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For those who suffer in pain, in trouble, in fear, in weakness, and for all those who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For those who have died, and those who mourn, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For the cares of our hearts, which we now name to you, for our armed forces and all those in danger.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(at this time, all are welcome to speak their concerns and thanks)

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People:

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.