

MORNING PRAYER II EASTER III APRIL 18, 2021

WELCOME

Good morning and welcome to St. Matthew Episcopal Church. It is a pleasure to worship with you on this second Sunday of Easter. This service is in English. If you would like follow along, click on the link above the Facebook announcement for this service for a worship booklet.

If you have prayers for special intentions, please write them in the comment section on your Facebook page.

*Officiant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise  
*Officiant and People*

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. Alleluia.

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \* let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \* and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \* and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \* and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \* and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \* and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Psalm for today is Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.

- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

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.

#### THE LESSONS

##### A Reading from Acts

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Here ends the reading

##### *Canticle 13 A Song of Praise*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \* you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \* we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \* on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \* we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths; \* in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \* we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Here ends the reading

*Canticle 18 A Song to the Lamb*

Splendor and honor and kingly power \* are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \* and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*, for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \* a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*, and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \* for ever and for evermore.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Here ends the reading.

SERMON

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 PRAYERS

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

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, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

. O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Prayers of the People

Living Christ, you are risen from the dead! Love reigns! You are life stronger than death. Raise our eyes to see you as the new day dawns.

We pray for the Church. Today we offer our joy that we celebrate your glorious resurrection with our brothers and sisters around the world. Envelop your people with a sense of your risen presence, today and always.

*(Silence)*

For the community of faith, the church of the risen Christ, we pray:

**Be with us and bless us, O God.**

We pray for our nation. God of hope, teach us the difference between reaching down and reaching out. Guide the many of privilege who determine the destinies of others. Lead us not only to share our wealth, but to enter with hope into the poverty of those who do not share our good fortune.

*(Silence)*

For our nation and for our common good, we pray:

**Be with us and guide us, O God.**

We pray for the whole world. God of creation you have given us a world of glorious diversity. Give us the eyes to see the beauty of all your creation. Give us o and the confidence to invite all into the bond of your love, that in unity with you, we may bring your peace, your goodness and your vision to all people.

*(Silence)*

For the welfare of our world, we pray:

**Be with us and unite us, O God.**

We pray for this community. God who came to earth as one of us, help us see you in each member of this community. Bless the many gifts of our members and keep before us the image of the Servant Jesus, that joined with Christ we remain ready to kneel with basin and towel before each other and before those you continue to bring into our midst.

*(Silence)*

For our community we pray:

**Be with us and help us, O God.**

We pray for all who suffer, especially N/ God of compassion, open our hearts to bind and heal in your name. Bless all of those who ask our prayers, and give us courage to learn the names of others. Be present, through us, to those who need your comfort.

*(Silence)*

For all who suffer and struggle, we pray:

**Be with us and heal us, O God.**

We pray for all who have died, especially N. God who has loved us from before birth and God who loves us beyond the grave, we remember those who have died in the glorious hope of the

resurrection, and we remember those who mourn, that they may be assured with that same hope.  
*(Silence)*

For all who have entered new life in Christ's resurrection, we pray:

**Be with us and raise us, O God.**

Glorious Lord of Life, we praise you, that by the wondrous resurrection of your Son, you have delivered us from sin and death and made your whole creation new; grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead, may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.  
*Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

ANNOUNCEMENTS