

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Washington Street near Broadway

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866



THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION:

EASTER DAY

12 APRIL 2020

Welcome

Welcome to Bethesda for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

Hymn writers capture the significance of Easter with both eloquence and power:

Tis the spring of souls today, Christ hath burst his prison...

At the Lamb's high feast we sing, praise to our victorious King...

Jesus, the health of the world, enlighten our minds, thou Redeemer,

Jesus Christ is risen today, Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

As we sing these words this morning, let each of us be mindful that God did something about evil in Christ. Easter means that all the suffering, physical and mental, which our Lord went through, the real and total death which destroyed him, he underwent undeservedly to give his conquest to all humankind. The Resurrection is not his personal triumph, but God's gift of the Living Lord in communion with whom we can share his victory. This is all *pro nobis*, for us. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself." [2 *Corinthians 5:19*] Indeed. Alleluia!

Devotedly,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector

The Holy Eucharist – Rite One

Please turn off all cellular telephones, Blackberries, and other electronic devices before the liturgy begins. Thank you

The Entrance Rite

All stand.

Hymn 85

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria in excelsis

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takes away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by thy life-giving Spirit; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The people sit.

The Lesson – *A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Peter began to speak to the 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." (10:34-43)

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Gradual – *Confitemini Domino*

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| 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 – *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing this hymn

Sequence – *Victimae paschali*

1 Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia.
Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia.
offer ye your praises meet, Alleluia.
at the Paschal Victim's feet. Alleluia.

2 For the sheep the Lamb hath bled, Alleluia.
sinless in the sinner's stead; Alleluia.
"Christ is risen," today we cry; Alleluia.
now he lives no more to die. Alleluia.

3 Christ, the Victim undefiled, Alleluia.
man to God hath reconciled; Alleluia.
whilst in strange and awful strife, Alleluia.
met together Death and Life: Alleluia.

4 Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia.
now the first born from the dead, Alleluia.
throned in endless might and power, Alleluia.
lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia.

Words: ascribed to Wipo, c. 1030, trans. Jane Eliza Leeson, 1853

Music: *Llanfair*, Robert Williams, 1817

The Holy Gospel

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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. (20:1-18)

<i>Deacon</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Celebrant begins

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death. And raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

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 as follows

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 Prayers of the People

Deacon

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father:

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection:

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love,

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter,

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world,

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, especially those afflicted by the Corona Virus:

we pray to the Father:

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day,
we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the Intercessions with this Collect

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hymn 89

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer II*

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant faces them and sings

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus – *Hymnal 797*

The people kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one

body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

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. A period of silence is kept.

Then is said

Pascha nostrum

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Concluding Rite

Celebrant Let us pray.

The People kneel.

Celebrant

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast 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 the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Paschal Blessing

Celebrant

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 work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

All stand.

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn 94, 2nd Tune

