



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — MAY 8, 2022

READINGS: ACTS 9:36-43; PSALM 23; REVELATION 7:9-17; JOHN 10:22-30

Organ: Trumpet Tune - Georg Philipp Telemann

Hymn 391, Before the Lord's Eternal Throne

The Word of God

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

IN THIS READING FROM THE STORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH, PETER IS SUMMONED TO JOPPA AND RAISES UP A DISCIPLE NAMED TABITHA. HER RESTORATION TO LIFE WILL LEAD TO MANY NEW CONVERTS.

Now in the port city of Jaffa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. She became ill and died; and they washed her body and laid it in a room upstairs. The disciples in Jaffa heard that Peter was nearby, so they sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, he was taken up to the room, and all the widows came and stood around him in tears, showing him the shirts and coats that she had made. Peter put all of them outside, and knelt down and prayed; then, turning towards the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called together the members of the church and the widows and showed her to them alive. News of it spread all over Jaffa, and many came to believe in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 IS SUNG (PLEASE REMAIN SEATED)

**The Lord's my shepherd, all my need through him will be supplied;
by quiet streams, and through green fields the Lord will be my guide.**

**The Lord revives me, guides my feet on pathways that are right,
and I shall fear no evil though I walk through darkest night.**

**Your rod and staff, they comfort me; in presence of my foes
you feed me; you anoint my head and my cup overflows.**

**Your goodness and your mercy, Lord, shall surely follow me,
and I will dwell in God's own house for all eternity.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THIS LESSON PRESENTS A VISION OF THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED GREAT TRIBULATION AND NOW WORSHIP BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD AND THE LAMB.

John the Seer wrote, 'I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 205, v. 3:

**Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem. It was winter, and the festival of the Dedication of the temple was being held. As Jesus was walking in the temple precincts, in Solomon's Portico, the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. My deeds done in my Father's name are my credentials, but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My own sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

THE IONA AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What do we believe?

We believe in God:

**Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
Whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth,
Whose love was crucified by evil that can entrap us.**

**Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God,
and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:**

**To serve others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,
To care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, in the power of Love's spirit,
And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church,
For the glory of God. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the Lord, responding to each petition with, **"Hear us, Risen Lord"**

(Special prayers, intentions and thanksgivings are offered.)

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Receive these prayers, O God; receive also our penitence. Transform us through both, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do for others, so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. This we pray. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Solo: The Lamb - Words by William Blake; Music by Leonard Enns

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life and bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead. Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright; gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice? Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee. He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb. He is meek and he is mild; he became a little child. I a child and thou, a lamb, we are called by his name. Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Hymn 377, All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Verses 3 and 4 sung in unison

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you . . . with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join in their unending hymn of praise:

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

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

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.

After all have received, please stand.

God of steadfast love; **Watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.**

May the presence of our risen Lord fill us with hope and peace; and the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be with us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Hymn 334, Praise the Lord, Rise Up, Rejoicing!

Organ: Alleluias - Robert Lau

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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