

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 30, 2023

READINGS: ACTS 2:42-47; PSALM 23; 1 PETER 2:19-25; JOHN 10:1-10

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME DAVID CARLE AS ORGANIST; STEPHANIE DEAN, SOPRANO.

Organ: Voluntary on "Brother James's Air" -- Searle Wright

**Hymn 478, Jesus, Our Mighty Lord, Our Strength in Sadness**

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, your 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**

In the first reading from the book of Acts, the new community of believers in the resurrected Jesus devote themselves to teaching and fellowship, to sharing in eucharistic meals, and to the prayers.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is the best known and most loved of all 150 psalms. This setting, for solo voice and keyboard, is by the Czech composer Antonin Dvořák, from his "Biblical Songs".

*God is my shepherd, I want for nothing. My rest is in the pleasant meadow, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow! My fainting soul doth He restore, and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify His name. And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still; Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.*

### A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

In this reading, we learn that disciples are called to bear undeserved suffering with patience, even as Christ has set an example for us, to that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

*all stand – Hymn 205, vs. 3*

**Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! (3x)**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John  
Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

## Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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 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

*Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. Opportunity is extended to those present to offer their own petitions. The response to our prayers: "Hear us, O Risen Christ."*

*Prayers, intentions and thanksgivings are offered. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list:*

Lori Praenior, Beverly Hatcher, Nancy Huckins, Susan Rich, Leanna Vernier, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Allen Berchem, Donald Burton, Jim Veit.

*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.

Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us. Hear all our prayers and forgive us all our sins, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. All this we pray. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

Choir: Lo! My Shepherd is Divine; anonymous text; music by William Lloyd Webber (1914-1984)

Lo! My shepherd is divine, how can I want when he is mine. By the stream that wanders slow through the mead where flow'rets grow, he leadeth me, and there I rest, in love and peace divinely blest.

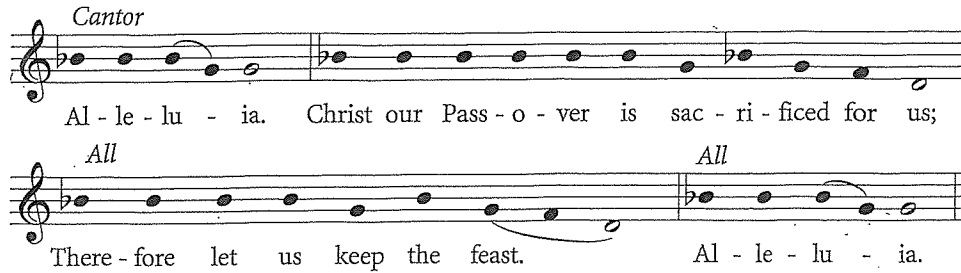
Offertory Hymn 377, All People That on Earth Do Dwell

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.

Blessing God, you walk with us from the Jerusalem of your death to the Emmaus of your glorious revelation . . .  
. . . and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.

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



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ is truly raised from the dead,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Organ Music during Communion: "The Good Shepherd" -- Dale Wood*

*After all have received, please stand and pray together:.*

Loving God; 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 God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to  
be united with Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be upon you and remain  
with you forever. Amen.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Hymn 645, The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Organ: Voluntary on "Today Hath Christ Triumphed" -- J. S. Bach

A JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL!

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

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