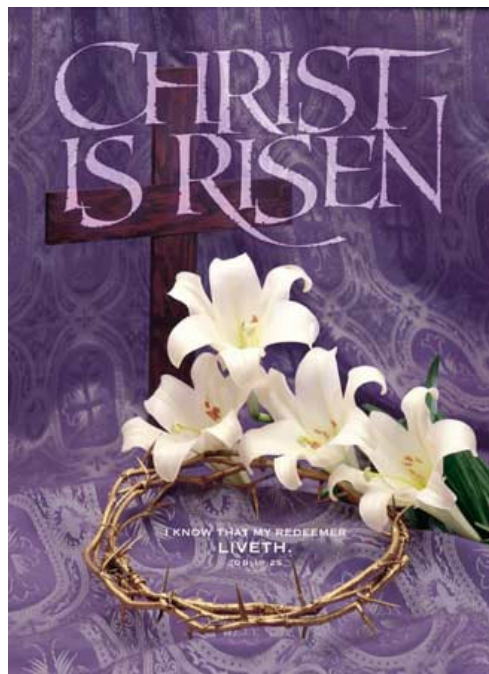


The Great Vigil of Easter
April 8, 2023 8:00 PM



St. John's Episcopal Church

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are very happy and thankful that you have chosen to celebrate Easter with us here at St. John's. In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians from any church or faith community are invited to share in Holy Communion.

You may follow the service in this booklet, or you may use our *Book of Common Prayer*, a red book with a cross on the cover found in the book racks on all pews. The other books in the book racks are different Hymnals containing the music and verses of the songs that we sing during the service.

St. John's is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver if you desire assistance.

Please visit the St. John's website — www.austinstjohns.org — to learn more about our ministries and activities.

This service is broadcast online and recorded on YouTube, and congregants may occasionally appear in some camera angles. If you wish to avoid being on-camera, please ask an usher to be seated away from the cameras.

The lighting of the new fire and blessing of the Paschal Candle are our first ceremonies of the Easter Vigil. These celebrate the “first light” of Easter with the lighting of the Paschal Candle and a candlelight procession into the sanctuary. The fire is the symbol of the light of the new creation which the Resurrection inaugurates. The candle is a symbol of the presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of the Church. It is decorated with symbols reminding us that Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the crucified Lord who has risen from the dead to conquer sin and death for all time. The nails represent the passion of Christ on the Cross. The cloves serve another purpose, reminding us of the spices the women brought to the tomb on Easter morning.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The service starts outside.

*You may follow the service in this bulletin or in the red
Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 285.*

*Please pick up a personal candle and a hand bell
before the service begins.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

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

LIGHTING AND INSCRIPTION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle using flame taken from the New Fire and says:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all the ages, to him be glory and power, through every age for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant places the nail cloves on the candle and blesses the candle.

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. **Amen.**

PASCHAL CANDLE PROCESSION

The Celebrant, altar party, and congregation process into the church. At three places the procession pauses and the Cantor chants:

Cantor: The light of Christ
People **Thanks be to God.**

The ushers will assist the congregation in lighting personal candles from the Paschal Candle during this procession.

EXSULTET

The Cantor and Choir will sing the first and last parts of the Exsultet, as found on page 286 of the red Book of Common Prayer.

Cantor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

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

The second part of the Exsultet ends with:

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.*

You may now extinguish your candles.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Story of Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

When God began to create the heavens and the earth—the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other.” God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. God named the dome Sky.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

God said, “Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear.” And that’s what happened. God named the

dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened. The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was.

There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was.

There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky." God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. Then God blessed them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened. God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth."

God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened. God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle 12 *Chanted by the Choir.*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows
upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Celebrant: Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea **Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21**

As Pharaoh drew closer, the Israelites looked back and saw the Egyptians marching toward them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Weren't there enough graves in Egypt that you took us away to die in the desert? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt like this? Didn't we tell you the same thing in Egypt? 'Leave us alone! Let us work for the Egyptians!' It would have been better for us to work for the Egyptians than to die in the desert." But Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand your ground, and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never ever see again. The Lord will fight for you. You just keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to get moving. As for you, lift your shepherd's rod, stretch out your hand over the sea, and split it in two so that the Israelites can go into the sea on dry ground. But me, I'll make the Egyptians stubborn so that they will go in after them, and I'll gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, all his army, his chariots, and his cavalry. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his cavalry." God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind

them. It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the amazing power of the Lord against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

I will sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory!
Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 8: The Song of Miriam

*The Choir will sing the psalm and the Congregation will sing the refrain: **I will sing to the Lord, for He has risen up in might.***

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the
Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths in their watery graves.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and
worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy
dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,

The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever .

Celebrant: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Valley of the Dry Bones — Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry. He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?" I said, "Lord God, only you know." He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them. He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company. He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 30

*The Choir will sing the psalm and the Congregation will sing the refrain: **You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.***

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
O Lord my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.
You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.
You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life; Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

The Celebrant says:

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.***

Celebrant: 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 our sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant: **Alleluia. Christ is risen!**
People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The church is lighted, the bells are rung, and the candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Hymn S280 “Gloria in Excelsis” —Powell

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.

Hymn WLP 817: "Christ Is Risen from the Dead."

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and on those in the tombs bestowing life.

The Celebrant blesses the People while Hymn WLP 817 is sung.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection 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 Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen. or this O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

The Epistle: Romans 6:3 – 11

A reading from the Letter to the Romans:

Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his. This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him. We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. He died to sin once

and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 114

*The Choir will sing the psalm and the Congregation will sing the refrain: **Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!***

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Please stand, as you are able.

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

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

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON— The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us pray, thanking God for the victory that Jesus Christ has won by his death and resurrection. It is for us that he has triumphed.

Leader: Blessed are you eternal God,
People: ***to be praised and glorified for ever.***

Leader: Risen Lord, we offer prayers for all members of your holy Church, as we seek to fulfill your mission of hope and reconciliation.

People: ***May we truly serve you in our vocations and ministry in the world.***

Leader: *We pray for all people of the Church, especially our ordained and lay leaders. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,*

People: ***May the life of Christ be revealed in us.***

Leader: Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world and make us mindful of those who live with violence and oppression. We pray for peace throughout the world.

People: ***Guide all nations into the ways of justice, peace, and truth.***

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble. May they experience the healing power of the Spirit of the risen Christ.

People: ***May they find strength in your presence.***

Leader: Look with kindness on our families and homes, so that we may live in dignity and peace.

People: ***Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.***

Leader: Strengthen this community in Christ's self-giving love; give us the grace to live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us.

People: ***May your compassion and grace guide us.***

Leader: We remember those who have died. We praise you for all your saints who have entered into glory.

People: ***Father, into your loving hands we commend them.***

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people, in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of sould, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

The Ministers and People may greet each other in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY

During the Offertory, the Celebrant censes the altar.

HYMN 182 “CHRIST IS ALIVE”

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.
- 3 Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior with the Father reigns.
- 4 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.
- 5 Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

THE PRESENTATION

HYMN 380, VERSE 3: “THE DOXOLOGY”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The service continues on Page 367 of the red **Book of Common Prayer**.*

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and says:

The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Hymn S-125: Sanctus -Proulx

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Hymn S 146: Amen

-Robinson

AMEN *(sung and repeated)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymn 204, Vs 1 and 3 "Now the green blade riseth"

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green

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 who are baptized Christians
are invited to receive Holy Communion.***

*You are invited to come to the communion rail to
receive the Eucharist or a blessing.*

*You may receive the wine either by intinction, sipping, or not at all.
Receiving the Eucharist in one kind is full reception. You may receive
standing or kneeling. If you need a gluten free wafer, please tell the
minister. If you prefer a blessing, please stand in the line with the priest
and cross your arms over your chest.*

**DURING COMMUNION:
HYMN 174 “AT THE LAMB’S HIGH FEAST WE SING”**

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
 praise to our victorious King,
 who hath washed us in the tide
 flowing from his piercèd side;
 praise we him, whose love divine
 gives his sacred Blood for wine,
 gives his Body for the feast,
 Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

- 2 Where the Paschal blood is poured,
 death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
 Israel's hosts triumphant go
 through the wave that drowns the foe.
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
 Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
 with sincerity and love
 eat we manna from above.

3 Mighty victim from on high,
 hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
 thou hast conquered in the fight,
 thou hast brought us life and light:
 now no more can death appall,
 now no more the grave enthrall;
 thou hast opened paradise,
 and in thee thy saints shall rise.

4 Easter triumph, Easter joy,
 these alone do sin destroy.
 From sin's power do thou set free
 souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
 Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
 Father, unto thee we raise:
 risen Lord, all praise to thee
 with the Spirit ever be.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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

BLESSING

The priest may bless the people.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN :
HYMN 180 “HE IS RISEN”

1. He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice:
He has burst his three days' prison;
Let the whole wide world rejoice:
Death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.
2. Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed;
Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore—
sin and pain can vex no more.
3. Come, with high and holy hymning,
hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming
yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east,
symbol of our Easter feast.
4. He is risen, he is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate:
We are free from sin's dark prison,
Risen to a holier state;
And a brighter Easter beam
On our longing eyes shall stream.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Please visit the St. John's website for information about
our ministries and activities: www.austinstjohns.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 AM	Adult Christian Formation—Church
11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II (in person and Zoom)
1:00 PM	Santa Eucaristía Rito Dos

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