ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Walking Together. Recognizing Jesus. Practicing Resurrection.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 AM on April 21, 2024 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Walking Together, Recognizing Jesus, Practicing Resurrection

The trajectory of Easter. Today is the halfway point in the Great Fifty Days of Easter – the perfect moment to take a look at what the Catechism in the back of the Book of Common Prayer has to say about the Church. For Easter Resurrection may begin 2000 years ago at the empty tomb, but it is brought to fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost, the end of the Easter season, when resurrection comes home to us. The Catechism section on the Church is frustratingly abstract. Read it through, but then realize that a better summation of what the Church is can be found in that "motto" we've adopted for St. Andrew's: Walking Together, Recognizing Jesus, Practicing Resurrection.

The Church*

- A. The Church is the community of the New Covenant.
- A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.
- A. The Church is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- A. The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- A. The Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work.
- A. The Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time.
- A. The Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.
- A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.
- A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.
- The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

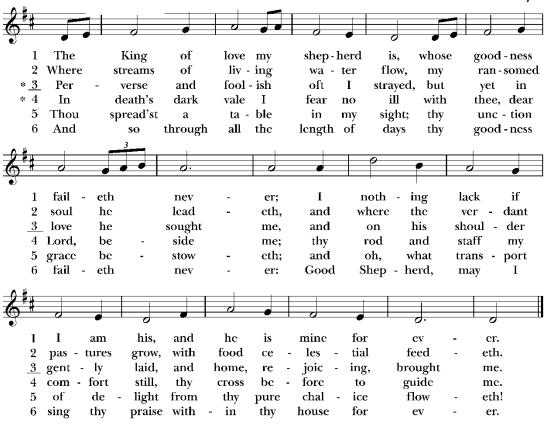
We are the Church. The key here is to realize that the Church is only secondarily an institution, a building, an organization. It is primarily we: the Baptized, the chosen, the empowered, the sent. It is continually changing, dying, rising, working in all things to carry out its mission to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." It is as perfect, and as imperfect, as its members – because it is its members. As our parish motto makes clear, with all its verbs, the Church is not a thing but an action.

*To save space, the Q-questions to which these A-answers respond are not included this morning. You may find them on pp.854-55 of the Prayer Book.

The Word of God

Prelude

Opening Hymn Hymnal 1982 #645



Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: St. Columba, Irish melody, harm. Hymnal 1982.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia

Welcome

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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 Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is `the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Response Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

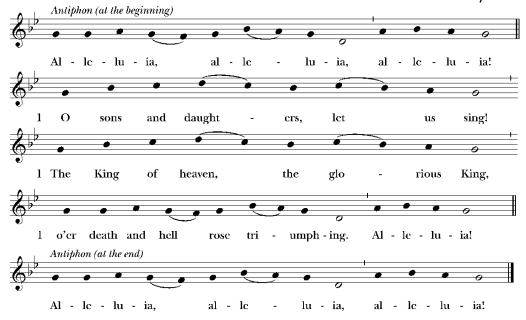
6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



A Reading from the Gospel according to John

John 10:11-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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,

Prayers of the People

The Intercessor provides a brief silence after each petition, giving all the opportunity to add their prayers before bidding, "Lord, in your mercy:"

Let us pray that the power of Christ's resurrection may be realized throughout the world. (silence)

Lord God, our loving heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Your Son, our Passover Lamb, has taken away the sin of the world. Forgive us and all people.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Your Son said, 'Peace be with you'. Bring your peace to the world and to our own country. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping. Comfort those who are sad, lonely, or grieving.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Your Son met the women at the tomb and bid them to tell the disciples about his resurrection. Guide Christians everywhere to share about the resurrection in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Your Son proclaimed himself to the two disciples walking the Emmaus Road and made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. Reveal him to us and all people through the teaching of your word and the celebration of your holy meal.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side. Reassure those who are troubled by doubt, and strengthen their faith in your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who are dying, and lead them to life with you forever.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Peace

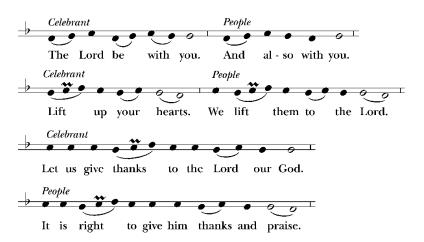
The Peace of the Risen Christ be always with you. And also with you.

Announcements and Celebrations

The Holy Communion

Preparation of the Table
Anthem – The Lord Is My Shepherd – by Howard Goodall

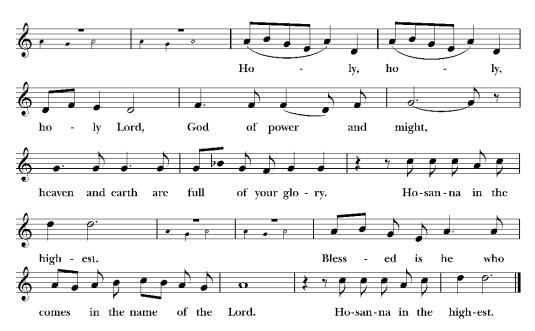
The Great Thanksgiving



It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus S128



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Andrew, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



Lord's Prayer

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

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.

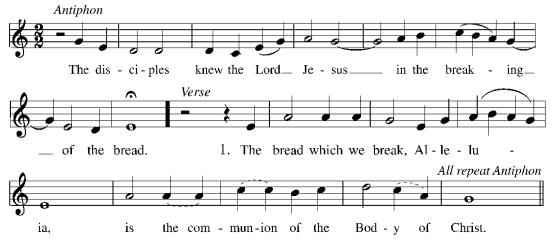
For thine is the kingdom,

for ever and ever. Amen.

and the power, and the glory,

Breaking of the Bread

Wonder, Love & Praise Hymnal #876 v.1



Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.





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Post Communion Prayer

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.

Sending Hymn Hymnal 1982 #205 sing verses 1,3,4,5



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Ringing of the Bells and Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

Pastoral needs this week should be brought to Rev. Reed Loy, our Rector, at Reed@StAndrewsHopkinton.org or 207-613-5123(c).

Presider: The Reverend Reed Loy Digital Acolyte: Randy Galinat

Associate for Music: Bernadette Aubin Allan Usher: Paul Carey

Lector: First Reading, Psalm: Shelli Gay Altar Guild: Annie Mills, Binney Wells Lector: Second Reading: Rob Howard

Eucharistic Minister: Bob Wilson

The flowers today are given in honor of Emily Anne Curtis' 31st birthday by Martha Buttenheim and Pam Minish

In Our Prayers This Week

Those asking healing and God's closer presence: Jill Wilson, Ann Marie Niziolek, Sheila Clement, Christen Hayter, Hisham, Suzanne Brown, George Kopriva, Pat Cotton, Marty Hastings, Michele and Chris, the Largy Family, John Daniel Sweeney, Jeri Mills, Diane Les Becquets, Cam Borton, Caroline Lind, George Langwasser, Wendy Dennis, Denise Vella, Bill Lane, Donnie, Linda D., Alison Klardie, Lachlan, Jude, Brian Tucker, Matt McCormick, Craig, Matthew, Bob Lynch, Jack Friberg, Eliza Townsend, Gretel Kumph, Dennis Martin, Annie Rainbow, Sue Fonte, Bill and Peg, Caelan, Hannah, Brenda, Skip Freed, Luke Tollar, the Smith family, Shawn Birmingham, Jacob, Judy Kidder, Louise Hazen, Savannah Tollar, William, Steve, Jim and Jan Diers, Linda, Helen Borgan, Stephanie Bates

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