



The Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

St. Stephen's Church
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
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WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!
EASTER SUNDAY
April 20th, 2025 -11:00 AM

Processional Hymn: Welcome Happy Morning

Hymnal 179

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! (3 times)**

Pascha Nostrum (sung to the tune of "For all the Saints)

Hymnal 287

God's Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us; therefore with joy we keep the Easter feast; forsaking sin we share the bread of truth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Now Christ is raised and will not die again; death has no more dominion over him;

Through him we die to sin and live to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead; though Adam's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in Christ's new life shall all be made alive. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Feast:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to 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 your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Hymnal S-280

1st Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43

In those days, Peter began to speak to them: "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."

Psalm 118 :1-2, 14-24 (congregation to respond with verses in bold)

- 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.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Hymn: Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Hymnal 199, verses 1-2 before, 3-4 after

Holy Gospel St. John 20: 1-18

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.

Homily

Fr. Timothy Griffin

Procession to the Baptismal Font to renew our baptismal vows

Prayer Book 292

The Peace of Christ is passed.

Offertory: Doxology of Praise (sung to the tune 'All Creatures of our God and King)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise him all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him above ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

It is desirable that we stand rather than kneel during the Great 50 Days of Easter.

Great Thanksgiving Eucharist Prayer D

Prayer Book 372

Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

Fractional Hymn

Hymnal S-155

Facing the people, the Celebrant gives the following Invitation:

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 Communion, all say together:

Prayer Book pg 366

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The celebrant pronounces the festal blessing:

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 good 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 among you, and remain with you always.

Recessional Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Hymnal 207

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

Christ is risen! Alleluia! The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Bishop: Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols
Priest: Rev. Timothy Griffin
 215-796-4602 (cell)
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 Office hours: Wed 10-1 then visits as needed
Organist: Ellen Erb
Acolyte: Steve DeVore
Ushers: Jim Colombo
Lector: Shirley Raab

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The 7 day Reservation candle is given this week to the Glory of God, by Lisa Ligi in honor of her mother Ceil's birthday

We pray for healing:
in our fellowship for: Kelly, Monica, Donald, Charlotte, Connie, Joan, Paula, Carlos and Darlene

In our extended fellowship we pray for: Katie, Kristen, Amy, Jennifer, Matthew, Deborah, Mary, Diane, Dorothy, Delores, Letiticia, Robert, Ceil, Carol, Frank, John, Eileen and Pete.

In the food pantry community:
Dan

In our diocese, we pray for:
St. Margarets Episcopal Church, Emmaus, PA and
St. Matthew's Society

In the greater Anglican communion,
we pray for:

Lubule, Koiba Parish, Kajo Keji ; and
The Church in The Province of West Indies

Dates to remember:

<u>April 27th</u> -	Vestry Meeting following coffee hour after service
<u>May 3rd</u>	Lasagna Takeout Dinner 4-5:30pm
<u>May 20th</u> -	School Hoagie sale. Orders due in Vals office by Wed 5/14
<u>May 24th</u> -	Women Connecting in Faith forum 9:30-12:30 parish hall
<u>May 31st</u> -	Community Yard Sale 8am-1:00pm

Attendance for last week 4/13/25 service:
in person, at least on line

Happy Easter!!

He Is Risen! Alleluia