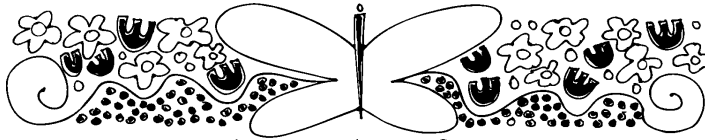




Saint Matthew Episcopal Church

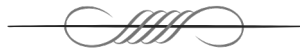
In the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
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Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023



The Liturgy of The Holy Eucharist II

Procession to the Altar

Hymn #482

Lord of all hopefulness

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **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.**

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 Acts

(2:42-47)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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 1 Peter (2:19-25)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Servant Song

1. Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you, in the night-time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the words you long to hear.

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The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (10:1-10)

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.

Gradual

Servant Song

4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony. Born of all we've known together, of Christ's love and agony.
6. Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

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The Sermon

Silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed (Standing, as able.)

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

Alleluia! Our glorious God has raised Jesus from death to life; let every heart be filled with praise. Alleluia!

Sanctify your creation as abundant new life now bursts forth.

That all may share in the wholeness promised to our broken world.

Guide those in authority to transcend the barriers that separate the human family and build together an everlasting peace, praying especially for an end to all war, terror and violence in every heart and land.

That our world may know the blessings of life in you.

Encourage your Church to celebrate the resurrection with joy, committing ourselves to the work of reconciliation.

That Christ's Body may be One.

Empower your ministers to proclaim boldly the message of the resurrection.

That all may come to see you as our Risen Lord.

Inspire us to live faithfully our Baptismal vows and to partake lovingly of the Sacred Bread and Wine.

That we may be an Easter people.

Assist those who suffer or are in need; the poor, the lonely, the disabled.

That they too may share in your abundant life.

Embrace those who have died with your eternal love.

That they may rejoice in your presence forever more.

Hear our special intercessions for this day, O Lord, as we pray: for the Anglican Communion, especially the Dioceses of Shyira - (Rwanda), Shyogwe - (Rwanda), Sialkot - (Pakistan), Singapore - (South East Asia), Sittwe - (Myanmar), Sodor & Man - (York, England), and The Episcopal Church; our diocese, especially St. Stephen's, Oak Harbor; St. James, Sedro Woolley; and our parish; that your Holy Spirit would guide and direct your Church throughout the world to be a sign of your Kingdom;

We pray for the deployed and their families, especially for those we now name;

We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially for Lyn, Areewa, Marisa, Rico, Saray, Leif, Kari, Kathryn, Milana, Jackie, Elianny, Glen, Gary, Marilyn, Justin & Kendra, Alex, Janae, Travon, Debbie, Cindy, Scott, Mike, Kim, Mike, Michele, Bob, Garry, Nancy, Emerson, Peyton, Samantha, Marie, Robert, Hope, and for those we now name;

We thank you for all the blessings of this life especially for those we now name;

We pray also for those who have died, especially those we now name;

We praise you and bless you, O Christ.
We praise you and bless you.

Celebrant

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.**

In keeping with the ancient custom of the Church, the confession is omitted during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Offertory

Our Sunday loose cash offerings go to our Emergency Aid Fund, which directly serves families and individuals in need within our community. Your generosity makes saying "yes" to those who need help the most possible.



The Great Thanksgiving – A

The Celebrant faces the people and says

Celebrant 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.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

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.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues
Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...

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. **AMEN**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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 this day 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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Holy Communion

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

All persons are invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion in one or both of the elements or receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts and alcohol-free wine are available upon request at the rail. If you have yet to be baptized and are interested in learning more about this sacrament, please see one of the clergy following the liturgy.

If you do not wish to come forward for Communion or a blessing, or if you are attending the liturgy virtually, you are invited to pray the following from The St. Augustine's Prayer Book.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The 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.

The 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. **Amen.**

Procession to the Neighborhood

They'll know we are Christians By Our Love

1. We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity
may one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians

by our love

2. We will walk with each other.
We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other.
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land. *Refrain*
3. We will work with each other.
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other.
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride. *Refrain*
4. All praise to the Father,
from whom all things came.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

Refrain

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St. Matthew Mission Statement

To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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