

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Mass

April 24, 2021

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**
Flossmoor, Illinois

THE SACRAMENT OF THE WORD

Gathering Song

Gather Us In

(Haugen)

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Assembly Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Presider 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.*

Song of Praise

The Canticle of Hannah

1 Samuel 2:1-8

My heart exults in you, O God; *
my triumph song is lifted in you.
My mouth derides my enemies, *
for I rejoice in your salvation.
There is none holy like you, *
nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.
Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; *
only God is knowing and weighs all actions.
The bows of the mighty are broken, *
but the weak are clothed in strength.
Those once full now labor for bread, *
those who hungered now are well fed.
The childless woman has borne sevenfold, *
while the mother of many is forlorn.
God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises up; *
gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.
God raises the poor from the dust; *
and lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with the rulers *
and inherit a place of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are God's *
on which the whole earth is founded.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

Assembly And also with you.

Presider 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.*

The Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:5-12 (*The Message*)

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The next day a meeting was called in Jerusalem. The rulers, religious leaders, religion scholars, Annas the Chief Priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander—everybody who was anybody was there. They stood Peter and John in the middle of the room and grilled them: “Who put you in charge here? What business do you have doing this?”

With that, Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, let loose: “Rulers and leaders of the people, if we have been brought to trial today for helping a sick man, put under investigation regarding this healing, I’ll be completely frank with you—we have nothing to hide. By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the One you killed on a cross, the One God raised from the dead, by means of his name this man stands before you healthy and whole. Jesus is ‘the stone you masons threw out, which is now the cornerstone.’ Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we can be saved, only this one.”

Assembly Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

YHWH is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
GOD makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
GOD revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for their Name’s sake.
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.
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.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of YHWH for ever.

The Lesson from the Christian Scripture

1 John 3:16-24 (*The Message*)

Lector A reading from the First Letter of John.

This is how we’ve come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love. This is the only way we’ll know we’re living truly, living in God’s reality. It’s also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Give the Glory

(Canedo/Hurd)

The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Assembly

Glory to you, Christ our Savior.

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He's only in it for the money. The sheep don't matter to him.

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They'll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.”

Gospeller

The Gospel of Christ.

Assembly

Praise to you, Christ our Redeemer.

Homily

The Rev. Jeremy C. Froyen, CFC

Rector

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God, the Creator,
the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
the only Child of God,
eternally begotten of the Creator,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
One in Being with the Creator:
Through the Redeemer all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
Jesus Christ the Redeemer
came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
was born of the Virgin Mary, and became human.
For our sake Jesus was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
suffered, died and was buried,
and, on the third day, rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures,
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God.
Jesus Christ will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and the Reign of God will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Sanctifier, the Giver of Life,
who proceeds from God the Creator,
who with the Creator and the Redeemer,
is worshipped and glorified
and 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
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Gathered

Intercessor O God, our Creator, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your child Jesus;
therefore, in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

Remembering especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Bishop-Elect; Jeremy, Michael,
and Rachael, our clergy; and for all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Invigorate and embolden the mission of your Church, and especially of this Parish Community, that
your love, grace, and mercy may be made known to the world.

God of grace:

Assembly You hear our prayer.

Intercessor We pray for all in positions of governance and authority:

Remembering especially Joseph, our President; J.B., our Governor; the Courts and Congress of
these United States; and for our local leaders and all who hold positions of authority in our world.
May they make just decisions for the welfare and good of all people.

God of grace:

Assembly You hear our prayer.

Intercessor

We pray for the welfare of our world:

Remembering especially those who are experiencing any form of oppression, degradation, or injustice;

And those who are suffering or in any trouble;
May they come to know the grace and peace that comes from relationship with you.

Help us to be better stewards of this earth you have given us to care for: May our actions be in harmony with your creation, and may she be healed and made whole.

God of grace:

Assembly

You hear our prayer.

Intercessor

We pray for the needs and concerns of this Parish community:

Remembering especially those in our parish for whom prayers have been requested;

And those celebrating birthdays this week, remembering especially
Shirley Reilly, Bob de Oliveira, and John O'Brien

And those celebrating anniversaries this week; remembering especially
Theresa & Sam Otoo

And those on our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Jean Hilliard, Debbi Huggett, John
Huntoon, Zoe Huntoon

And I invite you to offer your own prayers of thanksgiving or intercession, either aloud, or in the
silence of your heart.

God of grace:

Assembly

You hear our prayer.

Intercessor

And we pray for all the departed.

May they experience the Easter joy of the resurrection you have promised to all who love you.

God of grace:

Assembly

You hear our prayer.

The Peace

Presider

The peace of Christ be always with you.

Assembly

And also with you.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE TABLE

The Gathering of our Offerings

Offering our gifts to God is an act of worship, just as offering our prayers, singing our praises, and confessing our beliefs are. By offering our monetary gifts, we are given the opportunity to respond with gratitude to the grace, love and mercy of God and to put our faith and trust in God into action.

In an effort to minimize points of contact, the offering plate is stationary at the head of the aisle. You may place your offerings there before or after the Mass, or when you come forward for Communion.

Offertory Music

In Every Age

(Sullivan)

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer

Presider God be with you.
Assembly And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
Assembly We lift them to God.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun moon and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.

Presider Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, 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.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
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.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us with
the ever blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist,
Sts. Francis and Clare, and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

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. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers into one,
as Jesus taught us we now pray:

All Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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 dominion, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

Assembly We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The Invitation

This table of bread and wine is now ready for all who are gathered here, in person or in spirit. It is the table of fellowship with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who are far away and you who are present in this holy space; you who have much faith and you who are searching for faith and you who feel lost; you who have been here often, you who have not been for a while, and you who have not yet come. For it is Christ who invites us to meet him here, so come, for all are welcome at this table.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Music

Shepherd of my Heart

(O'Brien)

The Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

All God of abundance,
you have fed us with
the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ
and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Mission Hymn

Baptized in Water

(Saward)

The Dismissal

Presider Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go in peace
to proclaim the Easter joy of God's resurrected Love!

Assembly Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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