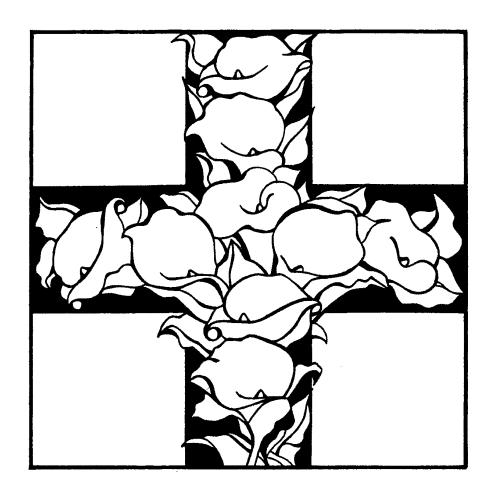
THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

March 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (EPISCOPAL)

204 Monument Road Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512 (508) 255-0433

www.holyspiritorleans.org

On Holy Week, Easter and Antisemitism

The story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, torture and death makes many references to "the Jews." These crescendo during Holy Week in the Passion readings we share each year. Language such as "his blood be on us and on our children" (Mt. 27:25) has fueled centuries of murderous violence and state-sponsored genocide against our Jewish sisters and brothers – all, somehow, rationalized as righteousness in the minds of the persecutors The 1662 version of our Anglican prayer book, in fact, guided the faithful to pray on Good Friday that God would take from all "Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Heretics" their "ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word." That language survived until 1928.

Our gospels (themselves written decades after the events we remember, grieve and celebrate this week) actually tell a story of what scholar Craig S. Keener understands as "competing Judaisms." Virtually all persons the gospels name this week understood themselves as Jewish – both persecutors and the persecuted. The evangelists wrote as Jewish Christians, critiquing other Jews and particularly leadership, from within – as did the prophets of Hebrew scripture. We have been given the story of the Jews as a sacred stand-in for the larger story of humankind.

There are parts of our own selves that wish, like the Jerusalem leadership, to be rid of Jesus. There are parts of our own selves that, like a number of Jesus own disciples, seek to position the self as righteous over/against some perceived inferior "other." The gospels never invite or justify such a response. The gospels certainly do not condone antisemitism. The hateful uses to which the Passion story has been put in the course of Christian history should bring us to our knees.

A number of Christian churches have purged NRSV reference to "the Jews" completely from Holy Week liturgies. It can be said that such edits reduce the potential for antisemitic readings of these texts. Our own liturgies have been guided this week by the wisdom of scholars Raymond Brown and Amy-Jill Levine, who ask us to avoid such editing but instead to hazard discomfort, to reflect upon our own responses to scriptural references to 'the Jews" and to move through Holy Week mindful of the sin of systemic Christian antisemitism, committed to confronting it, and honoring the beauty and witness of a kindred faith which continues to inform our own.

Faithfully,

Patien

THE LIGHTING AND CONSECRATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Weather permitting, the people gather in silence outside the front door of the church.

The fire is kindled, and the Celebrant addresses the people in these words:

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.**

Choir and Congregation enter the church and the paschal candle is lit. Unlit candles are distributed to each person in the congregation as they enter.

Processing with the Paschal Candle to the altar, the Celebrant pauses three times, singing:

Celebrant The Light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

As the Paschal Candle proceeds down the aisle, the candle of the first person in each pew is lighted and the Paschal Light then is shared with the rest of the row. Please remain standing as you are able.

The Exsultet

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ His Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

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.**

The candles in the Congregation are extinguished. Please be seated.

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION

Celebrant: Let us hear again the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved his

people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the

fullness of redemption.

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for 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 may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 648 When Israel was in Egypt's land

Go down, Moses

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

The Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn LEVAS 116 Let It Breathe on Me

Magnolia Lewis-Butts

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

The gathering of God's people

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 413 New songs of celebration

Rendez a Dieu

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please remain standing as you are able.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

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: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect

the beauty and integrity of all creation?

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 sins, keep us in eternal

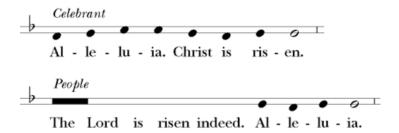
life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

Please join in the ringing of the bells at any occurrence of "alleluia" for th remainder of the liturgy..

The following acclamation is repeated three times:

Repeat three times



During the following hymn the Celebrant asperges the people with water.

Hymn 207 Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

The Collect

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.**

Please be seated.

The Lessons

A reading from the book of Romans (6:3-11)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Sequence Hymn 174 At the Lamb's high feast we sing

Salzburg

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Greeting and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Love is Come Again

French carol, arr. Alice Parker

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, Wheat that in the 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.

Please stand as you are able as the offering is presented..

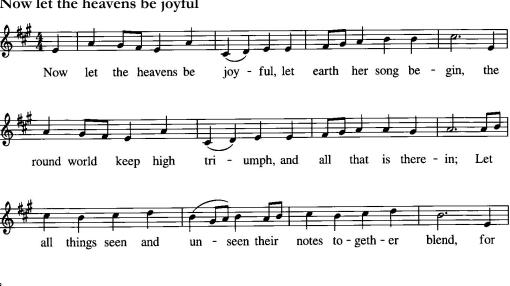
Now let the heavens be joyful

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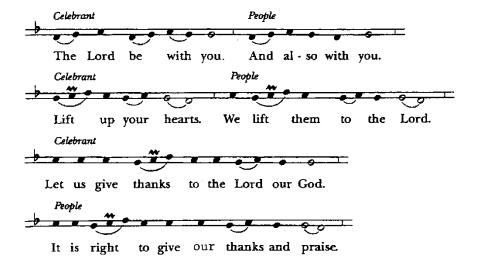
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The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A



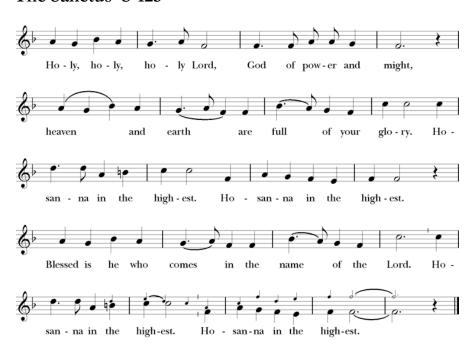
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

The Sanctus S-125

Proulx



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

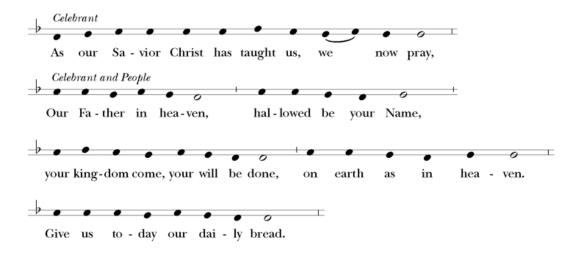
Christ is risen.

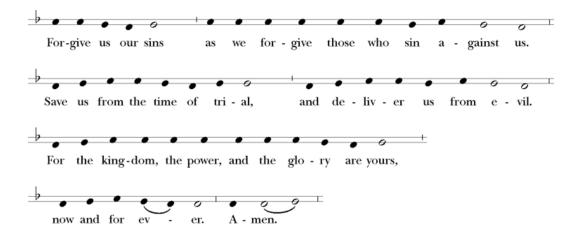
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

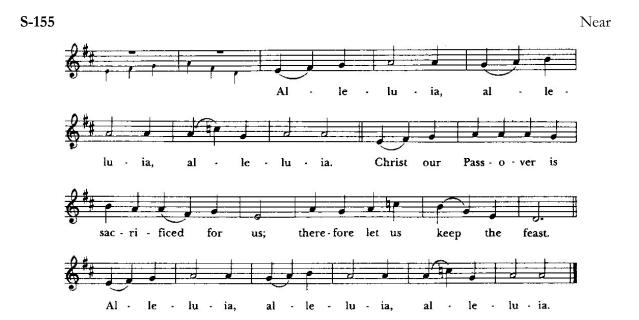
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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**.





The Breaking of the Bread



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.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Awaiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive communion. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please make your needs known to the person serving you.

The Communion Hymn 189 Love's redeeming work is done

Resurrexit

The Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by grace you accept us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ, and feed us with spiritual food in this sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace to do your work of reconciliation as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit may all creation sing hymns of thanks and praise. Amen.

The Blessing

May the God who raises Jesus to new life, raise us up to good works and new faith. Amen.

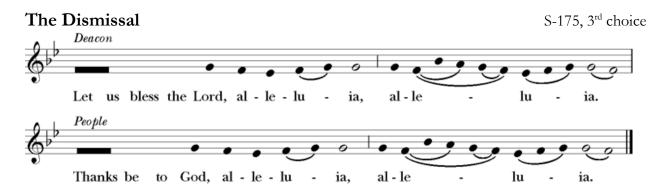
May the God who raises us up, send us out to be holy people in the world. Amen.

May the God who sends us out, gather us again at a table in that kingdom which is both now and forever. **Amen.**

And, may the God of all grace, who creates, redeems and sanctifies all things, bless, preserve and keep you both now and forever. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 208 The strife is o'er

St. Botolph



The Postlude Alleluias Robert Lau

Celebrant and Preacher The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Music Director Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers Celia Calhoun, Kate Paradise

Readers Lizzie Thompson, Diana Landau, Tom Dewing, Earle Bailey, Kate Paradise

Ushers Brian Skea, Sally Dewing

Altar Guild Jean Gatzkiewicz, Meredith Perkins

Audio/Video Nancy Boccia

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*To connect to our Hearing Assist system via blue tooth, please see the instructions below.



Please connect to: "CHS_Hearing" and the Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Helen & Sam Amoss Willard Andrews William Beattie

Dudley & Margaret Bennett Charles & Bertheline

Blanchet

Eleanor Bragdon Robert Bragdon

Raymond & Evelyn Cole

Bruce Conger

Jim & Elaine Dewing Elenore & Malcolm

Dickinson I. Frederic

Roger Frostholm Jim & Stephanie Gray Robert & Helen Gregory

Sara Ann Haak Alice Hardcastle Ernie F. Haun

Rev. John & Elizabeth

Heuss

Elizabeth Hilton Dorese Hoselton Germain A. Hubby Jane & Kenneth Jones Jessie Hewson Jones

Ifor Jones Evie Iov

Frank & Sara Joy

John Joy Will Joy Dustin Kahler Arthur Knox, Jr. Margaret F. Knox Mary "Betty" Korswig Roger & Therese Lovejoy

Maxine Martin Ken McKusick Violet McGrath Janice McGrath Dewey McMahan Brian Miller Irma & Bill Miller

Sue Mittelstaedt Kayla Morales Millie & Paul Morgan Francis Nickerson Diana Oliveira

Edward & Marion Partridge

Maria Patricia

Robert & Mary Joyce Petrie

Ann & Frank Pike Rev. Chester & Greta

Porteus Charlie Puzo Hamilton K. Pyles Hamilton K. Pyles II Marjorie S. Pyles Margaret R. Pyles Gonzalo Quinten Peter, Catherine & Frank

Reagan

Vera S. Richards Sue Ricketson Ann Ruckert

Wallace & Elizabeth

Ruckert

Arthur & Virginia Schnetzer

Marie D. Simmons Frank C. Smith Cay Sweeney Jean Elizabeth Tisne

Bill Wahlquist

Henry & Theresa Ward Tom & Grace Wilcox Martha Williams

Charles & Margaret Young

In thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren

Our family and friends

To celebrate the

resurrection of our Lord

In thanksgiving for

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

In thanksgiving for John, Alisse, Matt, Christopher, Samantha, Leo Mackenzie,

Mike