



# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

May 11, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

*The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 355.*

**OPENING VOLUNTARY:** Prelude on *St. Columba* (Hymn 645), Op. 101, No. 6

Charles Villiers Stanford

## THE ENTRANCE

**AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 208** “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o’er”

*Victory*

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Presider says the Collect for Purity*

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.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, HYMNAL, S 278**

William Mathias

*Sung by all.*

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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 WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST LESSON *[The people are seated.]*

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23 *Dominus regit me*

David Boulware-Kelley

*The cantor sings the refrain, which is then repeated by all. Thereafter, the cantor sings the verses, and all join on the refrain, as indicated.*

I will dwell in the house of the LORD, for ev-er, hal-le-lu-jah.

- 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. *[Ref.]*

- 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. *[Ref.]*

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 181 "Awake and sing the song"

*St. Ethelwald*

*Sung by all, standing.*

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Ann Gillespie

*A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Creed.*

THE NICENE CREED *[Said by all.]*

**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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *[All remain standing.]*

*The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. Throughout you are invited to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son.  
We pray for the Church: Father, enliven the church for its mission;

*People* **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

*Intercessor* Breathe fresh life into your people;

*People* **Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

*Intercessor* We pray for the world: Creator of all, lead us and all people into the ways of justice and peace;

*People* **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

*Intercessor* Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it;

*People* **Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

*Intercessor* We pray for every city, community, and nation:

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others;

*People* **That all may act with integrity and courage.**

*Intercessor* Give grace to all whose lives are closely linked with ours.

We pray especially for the sick, the hungry, and those in any kind of need;

*People* **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all those whom we love but see no longer;

*People* **Grant them eternal rest and a place in your everlasting kingdom.**

*Particular prayers may be offered at this time, adding*

*Intercessor* Lord, in your mercy.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

**THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.** *[The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.]*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.*

**AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: "Loving Shepherd of thy sheep"**

Philip Ledger

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,  
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;  
Nothing can thy power withstand,  
None can pluck me from thy hand.

I would bless thee every day,  
Gladly all thy will obey,  
Like thy blessed ones above,  
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,  
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;  
Suffer not my steps to stray  
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go,  
Walking in thy steps below,  
Till before my Father's throne  
I shall know as I am known.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *[The people stand.]*

*Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 367*

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you.      And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts.      We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
 It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*The Presider continues.*]

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:

SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 128

William Mathias

*Sung by all.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The Presider continues and gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ and prays over the bread and wine.*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People* **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*The Presider continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

*Celebrant* *People*  
 A-men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*People*

**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, HYMNAL, S 154**

David Hurd

*Sung by all.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**INVITATION** [*The People are seated.*]

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Communion. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** [*Sung by all.*]

HYMN 620 "Jerusalem, my happy home"

*Land of Rest*

HYMN 645 (stanzas 1-2, 5-6) "The King of love my shepherd is"

*St. Columba*

**THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER** [*Said by all.*]

**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 EASTER BLESSING**

**AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 708 "Savior, like a shepherd lead us"**

*Sicilian Mariners*

*Sung by all, standing.*

**DISMISSAL IN EASTER SEASON, HYMNAL, S 175**

*Deacon*  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia.  
*People*  
Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude in G Major**

Johann Sebastian Bach