



The Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

10:15 a.m.



Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe.

John 20:29b

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to

Connect with God and one another,

Grow in faith and understanding, and

Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

Celebrant: The Reverend Dr. William Pugliese

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

The Reverend Dr. William Pugliese

Prelude

“Before the Throne of God Above”

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

2. When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb. My perfect, spotless Righteousness

The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace

One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood. My life is hid with Christ on high.

With Christ my Savior and my God. With Christ my Savior and my God.

CCLI Song # 2306412 | Charitie Lees Bancroft | Vikki Cook

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✠ **Processional Hymn**

“O Sons and Daughters”

Hymnal #206

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

1. O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heaven, the glorious King,
O'er death today rose triumphing.
Alleluia!
2. That night the apostles met in fear;
Amidst them came their Lord most dear,
And said, “My peace be on all here.”
Alleluia!
3. When Thomas first the tidings heard,
how they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia!

4. "My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
my hands, my feet, I show to thee;
not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia!
5. No longer Thomas then denied,
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia!
6. How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been;
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: J. Tisserand Music: *O filii et filiae*

The Opening Acclamation

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

Hymn of Praise

Hymnal #S280

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath *
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!

The Epistle: Revelation 1:4-8

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Chapel

Children ages 3 – 8 and their Leaders exit to "Children's Chapel," returning at the Peace.

✦ Sequence Song

"We See the Lord/He Is Lord"

arr. B. Pulkingham

We see the Lord. We see the Lord.
And he is high and lifted up
And his train fills the temple
He is high and lifted up
And his train fills the temple

The angels cry holy
The angels cry holy
The angels cry holy is the Lord.

"He Is Lord"

He Is Lord. He Is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. William Pugliese

✠The Nicene Creed

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

On this joyful day, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

For the Church of Christ throughout the world, all the baptized, the clergy, and the bishops, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

For our nation and its leader, for peace among nations that a spirit of respect and forbearance grows among all people, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For peace in Holy Land, and all countries devastated by war, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For the weary and the sick, and for those who are consumed with sorrow, for the weary and the sick, and for those who are consumed with sorrow, for Jenny, Jarrod, Jacques, Debbie, Jackie, Matt, Sue, Rich, Mary M., Megan, Tony, Kip, Mary S., Kathy, Kevin, John, Calvin H., and those in our prayer list, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. and those in our prayer list, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For Ann, Jackson, Arlena, Kamy, Debbie, and others and others, who celebrate their birthdays this week trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For those who are oppressed or persecuted, for all the victims of violence, and all who suffer or are in danger, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For all the departed, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

For the needs of all gathered in this church today, trusting in God's resurrecting power, let us pray; for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant: Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

To make an online offering, please scan the QR code that is on the last page of the bulletin.

Offertory

"Something Which Is Known"

1. Something which is known
to have been from the beginning:
this we have heard and seen with our own eyes;
something we have touched
and have carefully watched: the Word who is life,
this we share with you. *Refrain*

3. He it is in whom we have found
the light of truth, source of our hope,
abiding gift of God's love.
Through that love we pass and are born in life
unending: Jesus, our Lord,
the fullness of our joy. *Refrain*

2. This is the life of our God, so gracious,
Word become flesh: there is no greater wonder.
All that we have witnessed became new vision:
this our hope for you,
alive in God's own spirit. *Refrain*

Refrain:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Words and Music: Gregory Norbet and Mary David Callahan

✠ Presentation Hymn

"The Doxology"

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

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

Sanctus

Hymnal #S129



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.

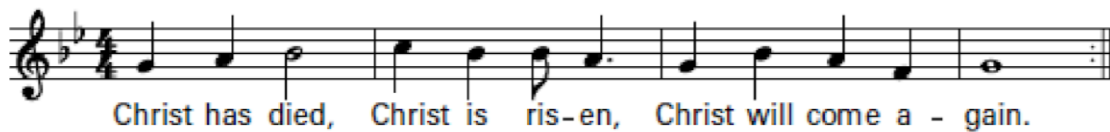
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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:

Memorial Acclamation



We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in his 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 Luke and 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.

The Great Amen



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:
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 Bread

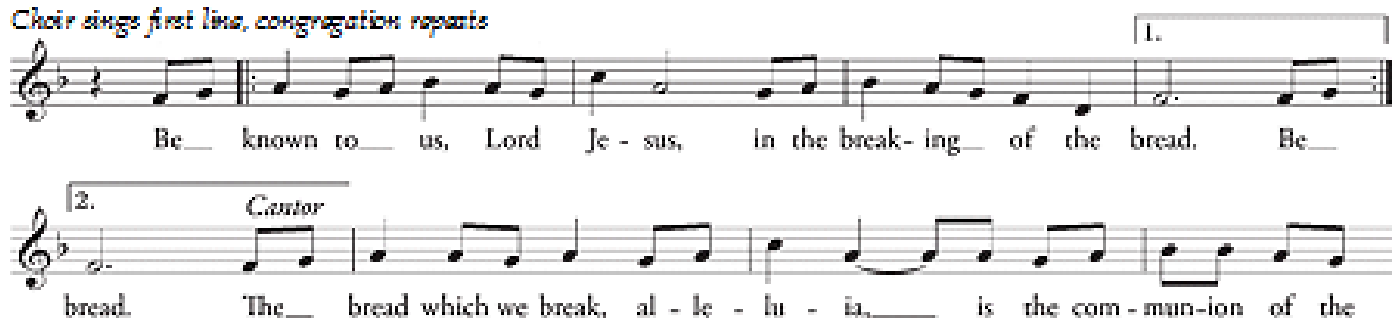
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

"Be Known to Us"

Setting: Gary James

Choir sings first line, congregation repeats





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. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharistic minister on both sides of the priest.

Communion Music

"Agnus Dei"

Alleluia alleluia
 For the Lord God Almighty reigns
 Alleluia alleluia
 For the Lord God Almighty reigns
 Alleluia

Holy holy
 Are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Worthy is the Lamb
 You are holy holy

Are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Amen

CCLI Song # 626713

Michael W. Smith

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✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

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 Solemn Blessing of Easter

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world. And the blessing of God and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

"He Is Risen"

Hymnal #180

1. He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison;
let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.

2. Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed;
Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore—
sin and pain can vex no more.

3. Come, with high and holy hymning,
hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming
yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east,
symbol of our Easter feast.

4. He is risen, he is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander
Music: Unser Herrscher, Joachim Neander

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	April 27	May 4
Organist	Mary Butler	Donna Parker
Musicians	Adult Ensemble	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Acolyte	Raymond Lui	<i>1 needed</i>
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	Olivia Carpenter
Chalicians	Helen Lang, John Holbert, Sandy White, Kim Tompkins	John Holbert, <i>3 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Gabriel Hoff

April Altar Guild: Team 3

Ellen Anderson Dorothy Carpenter Jennie Grabill Lisa Jamison Melissa Leahy

Attendance April 17: Maundy Thursday

In-person - 43 YouTube - 3 Facebook - 1 Total: 47

Attendance April 18: Good Friday

In-person - 52 YouTube - 3 Facebook - 1 Total: 56

Attendance April 20: Easter Sunday

8:00 am - 46 10:15 am In-person - 115 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 2 Total: 167

Readings for Next Sunday: The Third Sunday of Easter - C

Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19