

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM + May 11, 2025



Welcome!

You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are,
wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome!

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Prelude: Hymn Tune Voluntary on *St. Columba* Henry Coleman

Opening Hymn: "Good Christians, all, rejoice and sing" Blue Hymnal 205 (omit *v.)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

Gloria: Glory to God

Blue Hymnal S 280

The Collect

Said in unison

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 the Book of 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 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 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: "Holy God, we praise thy Name" Blue Hymnal 366
(vv. 1 & 2 before the Gospel; vv. 3 & 4 after)

A reading from the Gospel according to John 10:22-30

People's response before the Gospel **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."

People's response after the Gospel **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Nicene Creed *Spoken by all, standing.*

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 – [from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary] *The Leader and People pray responsively*

When our valleys are full of shadows, Lord, send us the light of your son Jesus, that we might find our way. Shepherd of our heart, comfort us with your overflowing love, hear our prayers offered with thanksgiving and sincerity as we say, Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

When our cups seem empty Lord, fill them with your love so that our acts of service to the world overflow and benefit others.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When our nation and other countries walk in darkness Lord, fill our leaders with hearts that beat for peace, justice, and provision for all people.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When our bodies are ill and our minds are full of turmoil Lord, send us the peace of your presence and give us the gift of your healing.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When the hungry go unfilled and the hurting are left alone, Lord, melt our hearts that we might be your hands at work serving those in need.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When our time on earth is ended Lord, guide us into the green pastures of your kingdom that we might live in your kingdom this day and always.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept the prayers of your sheep O Lord and grant us peace in our day that we might live out our lives to the glory of your son Jesus Christ who reigns with you and your Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen**

The Peace *All stand*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements:

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: A Welcome Song

Words: Mark Schweizer, Music: *Sommer* (arr. Thomas Pavlechko)

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.**

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.

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

Blue Hymnal 2 129

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

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

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 [_____ and] 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. **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 the Bread

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Blue Hymnal S 155

Communion Music: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Words: Henry William Baker, Music: *St. Columba*, Irish Melody

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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.

Closing Hymn: "Ye servants of God"

Blue Hymnal 535

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

Postlude:

Trumpet Voluntary

John Bennett

Thank you for joining us today!

if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin, please contact the church office (aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org) To learn more about us, visit <https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org> or call us at 978 256 5673.
