

336-227-4251 | INFO@HC-B.ORG | 320 EAST DAVIS ST. (27215) | PO BOX 1336 (27216) | BURLINGTON, NC

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 7, 2024

8:15AM | 10:30AM | HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN | 205

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
2 praise a - long his way: let all the earth re - joice and say:
3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high;
4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored;
5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gon:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

Let us pray. 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 | S-278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth, 2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-
migh-ty 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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People *And Also with you.*

COLLECT

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.**

ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO FOLLOW THE CRUCIFER TO CHILDREN'S CHAPEL.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:32-35

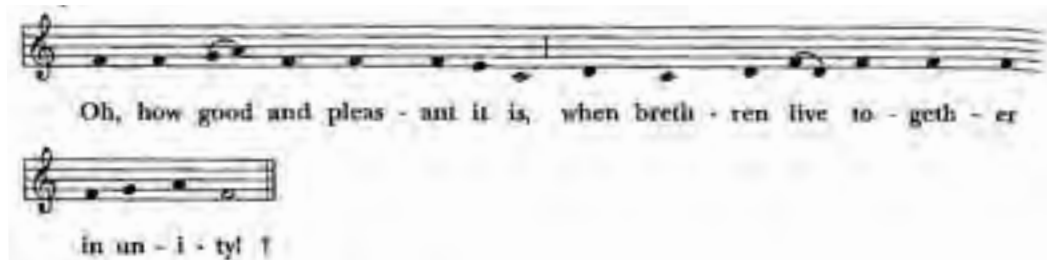
Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!



- 1 *Oh, hōw good and pleas/ant it is, **
when brethren live togeth/er i'ñ únity!
- 2 *+It is like fine oil/ upón the head**
that runs / down üpón the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard/ of Aáron, *
- and runs down upon the col/lar öf his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew / of Hérmon *
- that falls upon the / hills öf Zíon.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained / the bléssing: *
- /life för évermore, [Ant.]

THE EPISTLE

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to

you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN | 209

We walk by faith

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not judge his hands, and surely not
 3 Help them, O Lord, not that he lies, and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, an

gra- vious words we hear from him who spoke as
 ful- low where he stand; but in his prom- ise
 may our faith a bound, to call on you when
 ceals of clear- en light we may be- hold you

none ever spoke; but we be- lieve him near;
 we re- pose, and say, "My Lord and God;"
 you are near, and seek where you are found;
 as you are, with full and end- less sight.

The Officiant reads the Gospel, first saying

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

THE GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

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.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Melanie Barbarito

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

Officiant and People

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

Form III

BCP 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

Reader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People ***That we all may be one.***

Reader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

Reader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Reader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Reader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Reader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Reader Give to the departed eternal rest.

People ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Reader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Reader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

A TRANSITION PRAYER FOR HOLY COMFORTER

Ever-present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are not sure where we are or who we are.
Transition is not a comfortable place.
May we continue to remind ourselves of the wonderful resources of this Church Sanctuary and a warm and welcoming congregation.
Be among us, we pray.
Calm our fears, save us from discouragement.
Encourage us to care for one another.
And help us to stay on course.
Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey toward calling a new Rector continues as a journey of trust, and faith and love. **Amen**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Doubting Thomas

Mark Schweizer

O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of Heaven, the glorious King
O'er death and hell rose triumphing,
Alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word,
Alleluia.

"My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
My hands, my feet, I show to thee,
Not faithless, but believing be,"
Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied,
He saw the feet, the hands, the side,
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried;
Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win,
Alleluia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer D

BCP 372

The people remain standing.

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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS | S-128



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 people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

***Celebrant and People
We praise you,
we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Athanasius and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

Officiant and 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

BCP 364

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept The choir will immediately sing the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM | S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Facing the people, the Officiant says the following Invitation.

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.

Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the Altar may cross their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

490 | I want to walk as a child of the light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light
2 I want to see the bright - ness of
3 I'm thank - ing you the com - ing of Christ

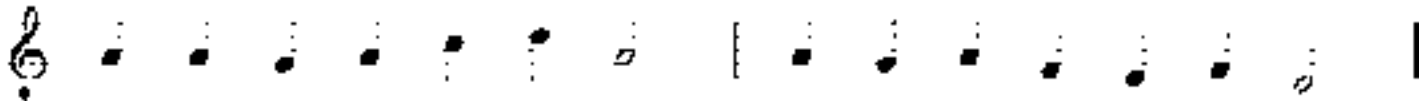
1 I want to fol - low Je - sus
1 I want to look up to Je - sus
1 I want to be with Je - sus

God set the stars as gifts light on the world The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star - ril - my life is Je - sus
show me the way to the Fa - ther, that
shall know the joy of Je - sus

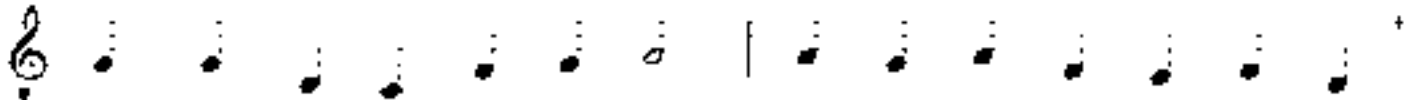
Repeat
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The
night and the day are both a - like. The
Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God

Chorus
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus



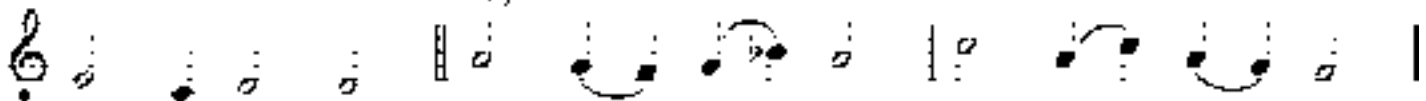
1 Christ the Lord is risen a - gain!
 2 He who gave for us his life,
 3 He who bore all pain and loss

Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain!
 who for us en - dured the strife,
 com - fort - less up - on the cross




Now through all the world it rings
 takes our sin and guilt a - way
 is ex - alt - ed now to save,


that the Lamb is King of kings.
 that with an - gels we may say:
 wrest - ing vic - tory from the grave.

Refrain


Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia!



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, our Pas - chal Lamb in - deed.



Christ, to - day your peo - ple feed. Al - le - lu - ia!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

For those attending in person.

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**

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION*For those attending remotely.*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL | 192

This joyful Eastertide

Unison or Harmony

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the
3 My flesh in hope shall rest, and fur - a - sea - son

see how! My Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath
ris - en; Lord of all life, from ill my
slum - ber, till trump from east to west shall

Refrain

sprung to life this morn - ing,
pass - ing life de - liv - er - ed. Had Christ, that once was
wake the dead in nam - ber,

slain, ne'er burst his three-day pri - son, our faith had been in
vain; but now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

During the Easter season, Sermons That Work is pleased to present reflections from some of the newest bishops of The Episcopal Church on the resurrection of our Lord. Check back each week for a brief exploration of how Jesus Christ's rising from the grave changes everything. To listen to this reflection, scan the QR code on this page and subscribe to the Sermons That Work podcast.

Spring has always been my favorite season of the year. Winters were long in the small New England town where I lived. Spring signaled new life and growth as melting snow gave way to crocuses pushing their way upward and recess back on the playground. As a young girl, spring also brought preparations for Easter, which included Lenten fasting and spring cleaning. Each year, the house would be turned upside down as curtains, linens, walls, baseboards, windows, and cupboards were scrubbed clean until all sparkled and appeared new once again.

For me and my four sisters, it also signified throwing off the drab outerwear of winter and donning new spring coats (all in different pastel colors of course), hats, patent leather shoes, and matching dresses. A feeling of newness and possibility filled the air. As I got older, I began to understand that Easter was more than new clothes and patent leather shoes, more than straw filled baskets brimming with cream-filled chocolate eggs and lollipops shaped like bunnies. Those feelings of newness and possibility were and remain part of God's story, the story my parents shared and lived each day.

My parents were resurrection people. They lived as best they could the life that Jesus embodied. They made sacrifices to ensure my sisters and I had what we needed to grow and thrive, and then some. They placed their trust in the Resurrection, secure in the knowledge that God was doing something new in their lives and in the lives of their children. The sacrifices they made were not always apparent; When I was much older, I discovered my mother had gone without a new coat for years so that my sisters and I could have new clothes each Easter. When my grandmother died, my parents invited my grandfather to live with us, so that he would not be alone in his retirement, giving up the bedroom they had just built for themselves. My parents' generosity and service, more powerful than words, demonstrated to our family and community the difference between what counts and what doesn't. My parents placed their faith and trust in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and lived the promises made at baptism throughout their lives.

For them and for me, Jesus' resurrection reveals true life and faith are found in those places where people, often unnoticed by others, are placing their own bodies in the shape of Jesus' life. I have the privilege of seeing this lived out in the work of our federal ministry chaplains who counsel and walk alongside our military, veterans, and the incarcerated. They support, encourage, and offer Easter hope to the young sailor who is up all night with a sick child, the veteran who tenderly cares for his wife with advanced dementia, the soldier who prays for her alcoholic brother, the prisoner who speaks out against injustice in our legal system, the airman who seeks treatment for depression, the guardian who is questioning their sexuality and place in the military, or the marine suffering from moral injury, who, through reconciliation, is able to forgive herself and others.

It takes courage to be Easter people. It takes faith to be resurrection people. It requires us to put aside the promise of security, to embrace uncertainty, and to trust no other truth than what we have seen and heard in Jesus, and to find our hope in living lives of embodied faithfulness. Easter



reminds us that we can experience the risen Christ in God's word, sacrament, and most profoundly in the intimate and personal ways we live out our baptismal promises. Jesus, through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection, proved what resurrection people know to be true: Nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love.

The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonia is the VIII Bishop Suffragan to the Presiding Bishop for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. She has served in the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, the V.A., and as a priest and rector to parishes of all sizes. She is a resurrection person.