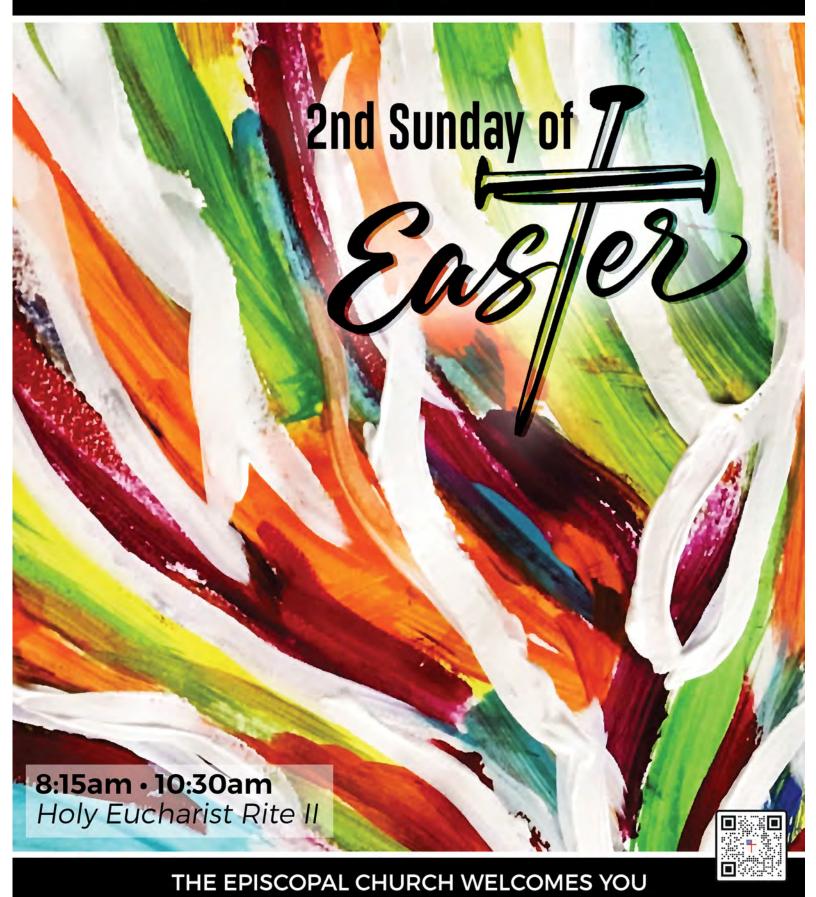
BURLINGTON, NC



WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE

Please call the church office at (336) 227-4251 if you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship service.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • 205

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

GLORIA · S-278



Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

FIRST LESSON Acts 5:27-32

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."

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

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 150

Laudate Dominum

In Easter Season



Wor - ship God who is seat - ed up - on the throne, say - ing, A - men,



hal - le - lu - jah.

- *1 Hallelujah!

 Praise God in his holy témple; *

 praise him in the firmament / of his power.
 - 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *
 praise him for his ex/cellent 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.

 / Hallelújah! [Ant.]

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.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN • 209

We walk by faith



THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31

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

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda M. Lee, Rector

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

Intercessor

Form VI BCP 392

For all people in their daily life and work.

The Leader and People pray responsively In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

People	For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
Intercessor People	For this community, the nation, and the world; For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
Intercessor <i>People</i>	For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
Intercessor People	For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
Intercessor People	For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
Intercessor People	For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Sam and Jennifer our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers; For all who serve God in his Church.
Intercessor	For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Intercessor Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Intercessor We will exalt you, O God our King;

People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Intercessor We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in

your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People Who put their trust in you.

Silence may be kept.

The Presider concludes with a suitable Collect.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE BCP 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

G.F. Handel

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep.

The people remain standing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharist Prayer B BCP 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider 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 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.

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 · S-128



The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider continues

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,

Presider and 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 [_____ 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**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

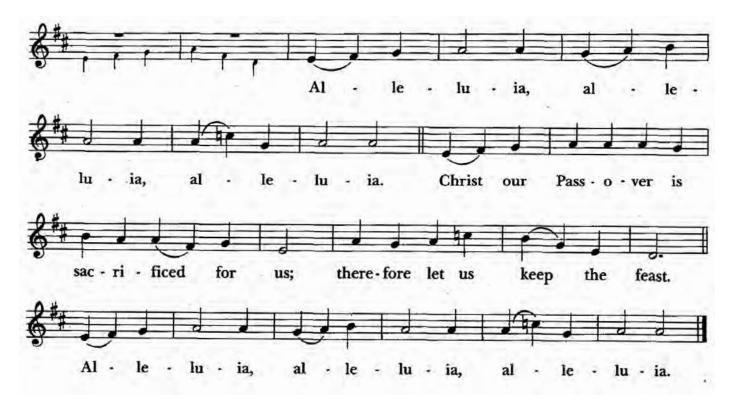
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider 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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.
The choir sings the fraction anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM • S-155



Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation.

The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

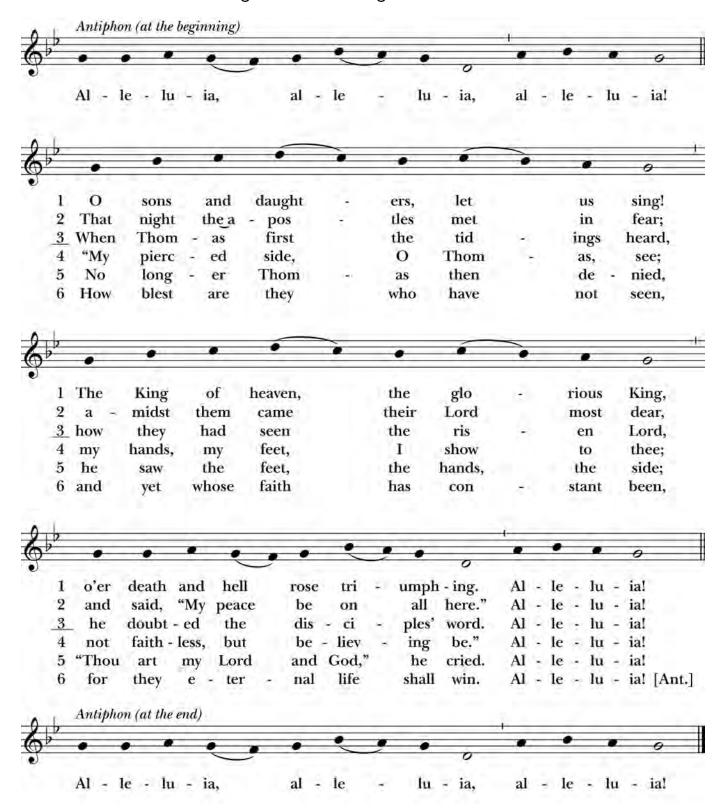
All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion, and everyone is welcome to receive a blessing. Although it is traditional to drink from the common cup, you may choose to "intinct" by dipping your bread into the chalice. You may receive only the bread, if you prefer. Reception in one kind does constitute full communion.

If you need a gluten-free wafer, please present your hands palms down. Persons wanting a blessing instead of receiving bread or wine at the altar may cross their arms over their chest. Communion can be brought to you at your pew; please ask an usher.

If you are not baptized and are feeling God's call in that direction, please speak to the priest, who will be delighted to explore this with you.

COMMUNION HYMNS

206 • O sons and daughters, let us sing



192 • This joyful Eastertide



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.**

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**

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL • 432

O praise ye the Lord

(Recessional hymn lyrics on next page)

DISMISSAL

The people respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God by David and Mary Telander in celebration of their 42 years of marriage.

Lay Ministers

VERGER Steven Swanner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Christin Baker

8:15am - Elizabeth Hansen **READERS**

10:30am - Maryanne Shanahan, Sandy Gerow

USHERS 8:15am - Tom McLean

10:30am - Hu Womack and Patrick Rudd

ACOLYTES 8:15am - CHALICIST AND CRUCIFER - Curt Odem

10:30am - CHALICISTS - Kathy Hykes and Meredith Patterson

CRUCIFER - Wesley Swanner

TORCH BEARERS - William Swanner, Amy Hess

GOSPEL BEARER - Amelia Pearce

CHILDREN'S CHURCH PRESENTER - Mourine Todd

ASSISTANT - Jim Romer

VESTRY COUNTERS Steve Slott and Sid Little

FLOWER GUILD Margaret Egede-Nissen, Jennell Harris, Patsy Isley, Mary Telander

Janie Sellers, Betty Brown, Rene Burgess, Mary Collins, **ALTAR GUILD**

Lynn Dahl, Beth Glidewell, Elizabeth Hansen

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE Nancy Slott, Connie Griner, Terri Stevens,

Cherry Wrenn, Mary Collins

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP May 1 - Peter Dahl

MEALS ON WHEELS April 28 - Stig Egede-Nissen

April 29 - Diana Wallace and Rene Burgess

April 30 - Cherry Wrenn and Stan Williams

All are welcome for Sunday hospitality in the parlor after the service.



BULLETIN INSERTS

BULLETIN REFLECTIONS ON THE RESURRECTION

Week 2 - April 27, 2025

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.



A number of years ago, I attended a conference that included a talk from Peter Rollins, a progressive philosopher and theologian who grew up in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. He recounted a time when he was invited to a conservative Christian college to be a part of a panel discussion. Near the end of that conversation, a student came up to the microphone and said to him, "Pete, just admit it. You deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

He was taken aback and described how he sensed every eye in that gathering focused squarely on him, including those of the other panelists. He looked at the person behind the microphone and responded: "You got me. I fully and completely admit that I deny the resurrection of Christ." He said there was a collective gasp of air, and I heard the same in our own gathering. Then he continued, "I deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ every time I do not serve at the feet of the oppressed, each day that I turn my back on the poor; I deny the resurrection when I close my ears to the cries of the downtrodden and lend my support to an unjust and corrupt system."

But Pete wasn't finished yet. "However," he said, "there are moments when I affirm that resurrection, few and far between as they are. I affirm it when I stand up for those who are forced to live on their knees, when I speak for those who have had their tongues torn out, when I cry for those who have no more tears left to shed."

I was stunned. Tears welled up in my eyes.

We are resurrection people, you and I. We are those who have chosen to follow this One who came to live among us and show us the way of God. Jesus proclaimed that he would bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed, and declare the Year of Jubilee. He made it clear from the beginning that his work would be resurrection work. That he would go about making things new and whole and full of life. And so he did.

And he still does.

Far too often, we only half-believe the resurrection. We hedge our bets thinking that things might never really change, certainly not in our lifetimes. We couch our belief—deny is a bit too strong for us—because we've seen and experienced the chronic cynicism in our world. Yet as disciples of Jesus, as people of the resurrection, we are asked to affirm his bursting from the tomb again and again. We are invited to look into the worst of our world and see it as a place where love could dwell. We are encouraged to hope and trust and believe and then go make a difference.

We are called to affirm Jesus' resurrection.



The Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle is the bishop of the Diocese of Olympia. He lives in Seattle with his spouse Melissa and their rescue pup Charlie Brown. They have two young adult children.

If You Would Like To











give us a ring, drop a line, scroll through our social media or visit our website... it's all listed below for your convenience.

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