



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Prelude *Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise* Broughton

Opening sentence p. 77

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips. p. 80

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ the Lord has ascended into heaven: **Come let us adore him.**

Alleluia.

Christ Our Passover: *Pascha Nostrum* (*recited by all*) p. 83

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven,

the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 1 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The First Lesson Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino* (recited by all)

p. 85

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18 Especially suitable for use in Easter Season.

**I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.
This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea.
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? *
who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; *
with your might you brought them in safety to
your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson 1 John 5:9-13

A reading from the First Letter of John.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Anthem

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

In Babilone

The Gospel John 17:6-19

A reading from the Gospel of John.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them

because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

p. 96

Officiant and People together

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

p. 97

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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.**

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

p. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Anthem

Hail the day that sees him rise

Llanfair

A Prayer for our Graduates

by Fr. Aaron Raulerson

Heavenly Father, we remember our graduates; keep them faithful in living out the way of justice and love. In their baptism you blessed our sons and daughters with your spirit, promised your aid, and called them into discipleship. We pray now for those entering new lives after graduation, praising you for their gifts and asking you for your continued blessing. For what you have given and what you shall give, we give thanks to you, O God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

For the Human Family

p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Diocese

p. 817

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop Rob, and other clergy, and all our people. This week in our diocesan cycle of prayer we remember St. Timothy's, Greenville, and St. John's, Grifton. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the

power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Sick

p. 459

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants *Ashley Burnett, Jeanine Wilson, Al Coward, Randy Tyler, Ben Procter, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacascel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, Will Copeland, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Thomas Roach, Stan Johnson, Mary Chappell, Grayson Morris, Margaret Burgwyn, and others known to us*, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The General Thanksgiving

p. 101

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Officiant may then conclude with the following

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Wilson

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Mary and Ben Castellow.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Celebrant: The Rev. Bonnie J. Smith

Organist: Tom Parker

Lector: John Hill

Soloist: Karen Ray

Altar Guild: Cathy Wilson, Della Cherry, Rosanna Rhea

Hostesses: Patti Farless, Lauren Perry, Rosanna Rhea

Offering: Rosanna Rhea, Pat Ivey

Ushers: Tim Ivey, Dickie Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guidelines from our bishop and diocese remain unchanged until the end of May. Please continue wearing a mask and keeping 6 feet between households. (Do not sit in pews that have been taped.) We remain at 50% capacity limit.

Congregational or choir singing are still not allowed. Offering plates will not be passed; please place your offering in the designated basket. After the service, please take your printed bulletin with you or drop it into a designated recycling

bins. Please do your visiting outside. For proper ventilation, the small fans will stay on, and the doors will stay propped open. We will continue to live stream via Facebook Live for those who are unable to join us inside.

Next Sunday is Pentecost Day, and we plan to have Holy Eucharist.

Congratulations to this year's graduates: Benjamin Jordan Ivey, Elisabeth Joyner Rascoe, Brooks Beasley Spruill, II, Isabella Purefoy Spruill, Bond Gillam Wilson, and Hosea Elbert Wilson, IV.

Evening Prayer with Bishop Skirving has resumed on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina Facebook page.

You are invited to participate in "We Will, With God's Help," a prayerful process of discernment of diocesan mission priorities. Your answers are requested by May 21. The material may be found here: <https://ecdio.org/we-will-with-gods-help.html>