

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**April 14, 2024 – The Third Sunday of Easter**  
**10:00 am**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont**

Prelude: *Christ lag in Todesbanden* - J. S. Bach  
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

**Hymn 205 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! (*Gelobt sei Gott*)**

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|---|--|
| 1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!<br>Now is the triumph of our King!<br>To all the world glad news we bring:<br>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! | and sing with hearts uplifted high:<br>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!   |
| 2. The Lord of life is risen today!<br>Sing songs of praise along his way;<br>let all the earth rejoice and say:<br>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!     | 4. Your Name we bless, O risen Lord,<br>and sing today with one accord,<br>the life laid down, the life restored:<br>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
| 3. Praise we in songs of victory<br>that love, that life which cannot die,  | 5. To God the Father, God the Son,<br>to God the Spirit, always One,<br>we sing for life in us begun:<br>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!             |

**The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*The Celebrant may say*

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 in Excelsis (S280, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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 of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

	The Lord be with you.
<b>People</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People** Amen.

### **First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19**

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the

faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

**Psalm 4 (BCP, page 587)**

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” \*  
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

**Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**Sequence Hymn 186 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (*Christ lag in Todesbanden*)**

1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands  
for our offenses given;  
but now at God's right hand he stands  
and brings us life from heaven;  
therefore let us joyful be,  
and sing to God right thankfully  
loud songs of alleluia!  
Alleluia!

2. It was a strange and dreadful strife  
when life and death contended;  
the victory remained with life,  
the reign of death was ended;  
stripped of power, no more he reigns,  
an empty form alone remains;  
his sting is lost forever!  
Alleluia!

3. So let us keep the festival  
to which the Lord invites us;  
Christ is himself the joy of all,  
the sun that warms and lights us;  
by his grace he doth impart  
eternal sunshine to the heart;  
the night of sin is ended!  
Alleluia!

4. Then let us feast this holy day  
on the true bread of heaven;  
the word of grace hath purged away  
the old and wicked leaven;  
Christ alone our souls will feed,  
he is our meat and drink indeed;  
faith lives upon no other!  
Alleluia!

**The Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the

third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon: The Rev. Amy Spagna**

**The Nicene Creed (BCP, page 358)**

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, Form III (BCP, page 387)**

#### *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

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

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

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

Leader: We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our own bishop; and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

Leader: 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.*

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

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

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

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

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

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

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

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

Leader: 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.*

## **Confession of Sin (BCP, page 360)**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem:** *He Is Risen!* - Cecil Cope

## The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP, page 367)

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

<b>People</b>	The Lord be with you.
<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<b>People</b>	Lift up your hearts.
<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<b>People</b>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b>

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant 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 (S129, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant 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,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant 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 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

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

### **Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei (S163, The Hymnal 1982)**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

### **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add*           Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him  
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those unable to receive communion in person today are invited to say the following  
Prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

*In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where  
your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own  
parish and those worshiping there, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for  
creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life,  
death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.  
And particularly for the blessings given me.... I believe that you are truly present in the  
Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come  
into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and*

*my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

*(SOURCE: <https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>)*

### **Postcommunion Prayer (BCP, page 365)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

#### *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.

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

### **Hymn 182 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (Truro)**

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now  
and conquer every place and time.

3. Not throned above, remotely high,  
untouched, unmoved by human pains,

but daily, in the midst of life,  
our Savior with the Father reigns.

4. In every insult, rift and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, but loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive! his Spirit burns  
through this and every future age,  
till all creation lives and learns  
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People    Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *The Strife Is O'er* - Alec Wyton

Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music