

# Morning Prayer II May 3

*Standing*

*Officiant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*Response* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*Response* **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.**

*Officiant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

*Response* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

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 also 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 a man came death, \*

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

For as in Adam all die, \*

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

# The Lessons

## Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Lector*            *The Word of the Lord.*

*Response*        ***Thanks be to God.***

## Psalm 23 *Read aloud responsively by half verse, standing*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

**I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

**and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul \*

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

**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.**

## John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do

not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

*Lector*            *The Word of the Lord.*

*Response*        ***Thanks be to God.***

*The provided meditation may be read, if desired.*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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**

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People*    **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*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.

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
R. **We praise your name for ever.**  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. **For we put our trust in you.**  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

*Collects*

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.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

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.*

*Then may be said*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

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

*The Officiant may then conclude with*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

*Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH *of* THE ASCENSION

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The Reverend Joseph E. Daly

*Rector*

*Those who had been baptized devoted themselves  
to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Acts 2:42

Luke gives us the first snapshot of the birth of the Christian Church: worshipping in the temple, gathering in their homes for fellowship, teaching, prayer, and breaking the bread, as Jesus instructed in memory of him. They are his people bonded together by a new covenant. They were “devoted,” a word better translated, they were *‘patiently persevering.’*

That perseverance of the saints resonates in our current climate. We are sheep of the Good Shepherd. Even when we are apart, we are still his flock. Nothing can change that. We are always learning, always praying, always serving and sharing this life together until Kingdom come. And what began in their homes and shared in their city caught the attention of thousands who wanted what Jesus called an abundant life.

Notice, Luke hearkens back to the beginning of his first volume, to another birth when angels sang in chorus across the night sky before shepherds in the fields, *“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward all people!”* Now, instead of heavenly messengers, they will be human, *“praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”*

Our momentary isolation awakens us to the fact that Christianity is never a private affair. It is a life shared as a community of grace with gifts given and received. And, when it is really shared, it really spreads by ordinary people with an extraordinary message, from our homes to the ends of the earth.

Celebrate it. Live it. Share it.