



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year B

April 21, 2024

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul H. Castelli, OCS

Organist: Kara Zaharin

Greeter: Kim Clark (8:00) Nissa Homes (10:30); Ushers: Billy Hemby, Bob Putney (10:30)

Lay Reader: Jim Davis (8:00) Carl Rees (10:30)

Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Davis (8:00); Kenan Rand (L), Randall Hornsby (R) (10:30)

Acolytes: Emma Hornsby, Frances Ross, Dallas Ross (10:30)

Altar Guild: Carol Putney, Bill & Carla Stakes, Dorothy Jeffrey, Thomas Farmer

Counters: Donn Holt, Melissa Rees

Let us remember that the nave is a place of prayer and worship. Please enter reverently, keeping conversation to a whisper and to a minimum as your brothers and sisters in Christ may be trying to pray in preparation for the Holy Eucharist. We hope you will stay and visit with each other after the service. Appropriate person devotional prayers for Sundays, before and after worship, and before and after receiving Holy Communion can be found on Pages 833-835 of the Book of Common Prayer. In addition, there are appropriate Psalms that can be prayed in preparation for worship, such as Psalms 84, 85, 86, 116, and 130. The Psalter can be found from Pages 585-808 in the Book of Common Prayer.

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I 8:00 AM

The 10:30 AM Rite II service begins on Page 2 of this bulletin.

Welcome & Announcements

The people stand as they are able as the Sacred Ministers process in silence.

Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 323

Collect for Purity

Summary of the Law

BCP p. 324

Kyrie

Gloria

Collect of the Day

BCP p. 325

Readings & Psalm

See Pages 3-5 in this bulletin.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 327

Prayers of the People

BCP p. 328

During the silence to follow each paragraph, the congregation adds prayers aloud or in their hearts.

Confession & Absolution

BCP p. 330

The Peace

BCP p. 332

Offertory

BCP p. 333

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 336

The Fraction Anthems

BCP p. 337

The Prayer of Humble Access

We believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread and wine. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians and they are invited at this time to the altar rail to receive Christ's Body and Blood. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the Priest and one will be provided for you. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat for any reason. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to signify that to the Priest.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

Blessing

Dismissal

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II 10:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

The Hymnal 1982 #492

Opening Acclamation

BCP 413

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant + Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity

BCP 355

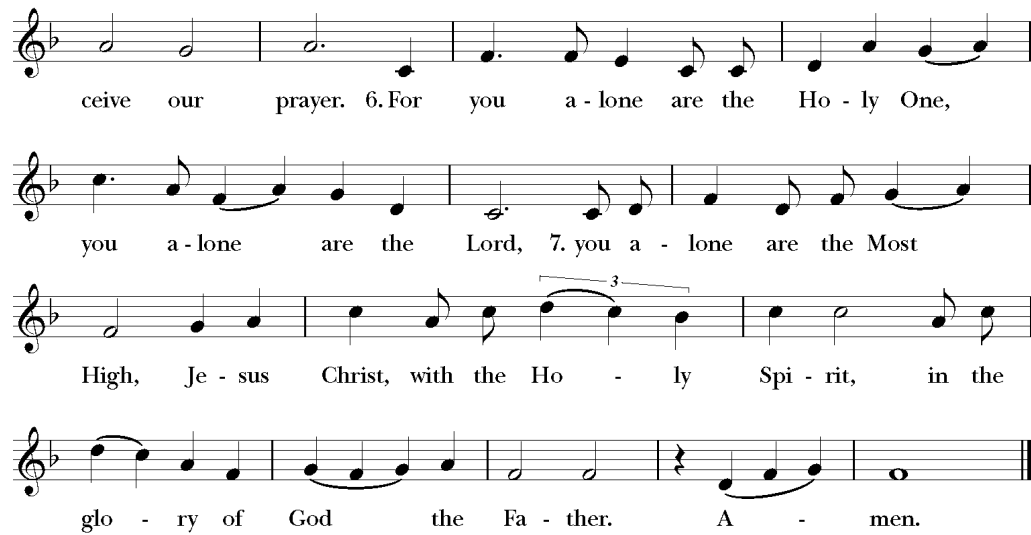
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria is sung

The Hymnal 1982 S-280



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



After the Gloria, the Celebrant faces the People and says,

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day.

BCP 214

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The children are dismissed to children's church.

The First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

Taken prisoner for healing a crippled man on the Sabbath, Peter testifies that Jesus is the source of both healing and salvation.

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

BCP 612

8:00 – The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

10:30 – The Psalm is chanted in unison.



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¹ The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

³ He revives my soul *

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

The Second Lesson

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus calls us to an obedience that involves both our words and our deeds.

Reader A reading from the First Epistle of St. John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us~ and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* Sequence Hymn

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Celtic Mass

Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker



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

standing, the

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

+++ For some it is customary at this time to use our thumbs to trace three small crosses upon our foreheads, lips, and chests to signify keeping the Gospel in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

* **The Gospel**

John 10:11-18

As the good shepherd, Jesus knows which sheep are under his care and defends his flock even to the point of death.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul H. Castelli, OCS

* **Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

Please stand as you are able

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 VI

BCP 392

Reader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence is kept for a moment.

Reader For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Reader For this community, the nation, and the world;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Reader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Reader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Reader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Reader For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops; Paul, our Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Reader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially those on our parish prayer list:
 Rudy Knight, Sharon Wethington, Vernon Hodges, Harvey Ruffin, Kim Perry, Jean Bissette, Paige
 Quinn Barnhill, Hope Currie, Ezra Currie, George A. Ruff, Suzanne Fleming, Joanna Powell, Joe
 Noulles, Jim Powers, Kreshaun Brewington, David Ballard, Phyllis Connor, Dwight Batts, Tyler
 Turner, Harrison Barnett, Stephanie Moore, Allison Parker, James Batts, Jimmy Thompson, Charlotte
 Bridgers, Linda Sheen, Henry Coleman, Lee Wilhelm, Bill Robinette, Betty Jean Gauss, Anna Jane
 Ruffin, Kayla Thomas, Kris Hing, Jean Webb, Lenore Smith, Nathan Toms, Harris Holland, Russ
 Bass, Beth Fogleman, Jane Lyon, Carter Grine, Jim Thomas, Joseph, Cheryl Stepp, Denny Lucas,
 Lynn Kyle, Bailey Blount, Debbie Castelli, Nancy Taylor, Kristie Bailey, Tammy Sasser peace for the
 people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, Ethiopia, and all refugees fleeing nations mired in military
 conflict; the people of Syria, Turkey, Canada, Maui, and all peoples recovering from natural disasters;
 those affected by Covid-19; and those affected by the lack of respect for the dignity of every person.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Reader Hear us, Lord;

People **For your mercy is great.**

Reader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks to you and pray for those who are
 celebrating birthdays this week: Lou Ann Cozart, Jeff Glover, Martha Wrenn, Johnny King.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Reader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Reader 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.

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

People **Who put their trust in you.**

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect to which the People respond, Amen.

Eternal God, who led your ancient people into freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we who walk in the light of your presence may rejoice in the liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says the following sentence of Scripture and bids the faithful to Confession.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14, 16

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is 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**

BCP 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

The Offertory begins with the following words. The people are seated while the altar is prepared.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Chancel Chor

In Remembrance of Me

Buryl Red; adapt.

by, Jerry Carraway

*** The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord;

People And of Thine own have we given Thee.

* Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "And al - so with you." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "We lift them to the Lord." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals, with some notes marked with a cross (✕) indicating appropriate times for the faithful to cross themselves.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

Then, 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:

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

The Hymnal 1982 S-128

The musical notation is written on five staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "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 notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals, with some notes marked with a cross (✕) indicating appropriate times for the faithful to cross themselves.

Ho - ly, 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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

* congregation stands

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. +Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.+



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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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 Fraction

BCP 36?

The Celebrant breaks the bread †. There is a period of silence, then,

This setting is not used in Lent.

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

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

The Hymnal 1982 S-165

Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant 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.

Hymns at Communion

Where true charity and love dwell
Shepherd of Souls, refresh and bless
The King of love my shepherd is

The Hymnal 1982 #606
The Hymnal 1982 #343
The Hymnal 1982 #645

We believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread and wine. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians and they are invited at this time to the altar rail to receive Christ's Body and Blood. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the Priest and one will be provided for you. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to signify that to the Priest. Prayers are offered in the Baptistery Chapel at the back of the church.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

* congregation stands

† indicates appropriate times for the faithful to cross themselves

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth by all, saying: We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us one bread and one cup, the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*** Dismissal**

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** Recessional Hymn**

I come with joy to meet my Lord

The Hymnal 1982 #304

Postlude



The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God

In honor of

Sandra and Garland Homes'

40th Wedding Anniversary

By

Sandra Homes



VESTRY 2024

Class of 2024: Evelyn Baskervill, Ginger Gliarmis, Donn Holt, Catherine Walston

Class of 2025: Ann Barnes, Melba Martin, Bob Putney, Melissa Rees

Class of 2026: Linda Connor, Parker Garrett, Lee Stephenson, Sammy Gilmore

Welcome to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church! We are a welcoming, inclusive, and affirming church guided by scripture, tradition, and reason. We invite you to experience a relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, by participating in the liturgy, engaging with the scriptures, and abiding in this Christian community of faith. In baptism, we covenant with God and each other striving for justice and peace, seeking Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and respecting the dignity of every human being. We believe God loves you, just as you are, and so do we! So, whoever you are and wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you will be welcomed, loved, and affirmed at St. Timothy's. Everybody needs a place. We invite you to make this place yours!



April 21, 2024 – Easter 4 (B)
Week 4: Reflections on the Resurrection

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.

During Eastertide, we lift high the good news that God's saving work in human history has been accomplished solely through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. We proclaim that in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us, and that salvation is not earned by any human effort at all but received by faith in the finished work of Christ.

But let's be honest: Sometimes this all sounds too good to be true – a well-meaning sentiment, but not terribly helpful when confronted with day-to-day reality. In the face of darkness, despair and death, we need resurrection, not sentiment.

We know all too well that life is filled with suffering. Some of us feel paralyzing guilt and condemnation because of the sins we've committed. Some of us feel overwhelming shame because of the sins committed against us. Some of us feel despair because of the impulses and addictions that seem to have power over us. Some of us are shrouded in the darkness of depression. Some of us are suffocated by grief because death has taken a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

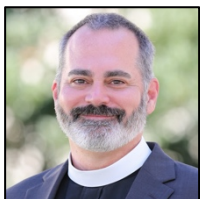
Rather than minimize darkness, despair and death, Jesus experiences it and comforts us in it right now. The one who stepped out of the grave on Easter morning has the last word. We're comforted knowing that Jesus Christ, God himself, knows what it's like to suffer, and that his Resurrection is a guarantee of our future resurrection to eternal life. Because Jesus conquered death, we know that darkness is not the end of the story or the last word on us. The risen Christ says the last word on us is "hope."

The Bible teaches that our suffering is a place to experience God's sustaining grace in our weakness (2 Cor. 1:8-9, 12:9-10). Grief, Scripture clearly says, is a natural response when we experience loss, but it can be tempered by the good news of Christ's Resurrection. Because of his victory over death, all threats against us are tamed. He conquers all our enemies: Satan, sin, hell and the grave. The Resurrection not only readjusts our horizon, but it completely transforms our understanding of the future as well.

Where darkness, despair and death had reigned, Jesus breaks in with light, liberation and love. A picture of this comes from Robert Louis Stevenson, the author of "Treasure Island" who lived in Scotland in the 19th century. As a boy, he and his family lived on a hillside overlooking a small town. He was intrigued by the work of the old lamplighters, who went about with ladders and torches, lighting the streetlights for the night.

One evening, as Robert stood watching with fascination, his nurse asked him, "Robert, what in the world are you looking at out there?" With great excitement, he exclaimed, "Look at that man! He's punching holes in the darkness!"

Jesus Christ, "the light of the world" (John 8:12), has entered our suffering to punch holes in the darkness and lead us into the dawn of his grace, love and eternal life. While it is true that in the midst of life, we are in death, what's more true is that, because of the Resurrection, in the midst of death, we are in life.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb is the bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida, a seminary professor, and an author or editor of more than twenty books on theology, abuse, and biblical studies. This reflection was adapted from [Bishop Holcomb's Easter sermon at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Orlando, March 31, 2024.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities for Prayer and Worship This Week

04/24-feria: Holy Eucharist and Healing, Noon, (Chapel)

Please join us each week for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings. We are currently studying the Gospel readings from each Sunday's readings. Dinner is provided and starts at 5:15pm with Bible study following at 6:00pm. Childcare is provided.

St. Timothy's Kentucky Derby Garden Party

St. Timothy's first ever Kentucky Derby Garden Party is Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at the Eagle Farm Clubhouse. The Derby will start around 6:35 PM. In between, we will do what a family does; eat, drink, "horsing around" having fun and playing games like cornhole, croquet, horseshoes, etc.

There are two things the Kentucky Derby is known for, HATS and mint julips, and yes, we will have both! Please wear your garden party finest! Also, we encourage everyone to be creative and make your own hat. Buy a basic hat or use an existing hat and have fun embellishing and decorating it however you like. OR you can buy and wear the finest hat you can find. This is about fun and fabulousness! There will be a hat contest in several categories yet to be decided and there will be prizes too!

We will serve finger foods: pimento cheese, chicken salad, and cucumber sandwiches, cheese straws, deviled eggs, vegetable tray, mini desserts, tea, lemonade, and water. We will also have the ingredients for that other Kentucky Derby staple ... mint julips. However, you need to bring your own alcohol.

If you, or you and another member, would like to go in together and volunteer to bring one of the food items, please call the church office, or let Pam Armstrong, Catherine Walston, or Thomas Farmer know what you will bring.

We believe this will be a fun event for everyone. If you know someone who is looking for a church home, please invite them. This will be a great way to introduce them to St. Timothy's! We hope to see you there!

Sunday, May 12th is Youth Sunday. Please start considering how you can be a part of this special day. We will need youth to serve in all roles in both the 8:00am and 10:30am services. These include greeters, ushers, readers, eucharistic ministers (must be 16) and the sermon. Please let Father Paul or Pastor Jen know by May 1st how you would like to serve.

The ECW is accepting donations for our first annual yard sale, which will be held October 5th on the church campus. As you do your spring cleaning, please hang onto any quality items that can be donated. Contact Jan Hemby at 252-286-7012 or Linda Connor at 252-245-6177 if you have questions or items to donate. Thank you!

The Spring Ingathering of our "Blue Boxes" will be Sunday, May 12th. If you have not picked up your UTO box please do so and remember to thank God for all your many blessings.