

**ST. JAMES HOUSE OF PRAYER
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TAMPA, FL**

**The Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 26, 2020**

Worship Note: Because St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church was formed from the merger of two established and unique congregations, we worship in two distinct styles we refer to as “traditional” and “nontraditional,” usually alternating week by week. In the “nontraditional” service, music is normally taken from “alternative” sources, and tends toward spirituals, gospel, and more contemporary styles rather than “traditional” hymns and service music. Also, the Sermon takes the form of “open mic” sharing among those present, following a reflection offered by the leader. Although this “live” interaction is not currently possible, questions for reflection will be provided in the sermon (and printed below in this order of service).

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

We praise God for the Resurrection of His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ!

Opening Song

I Am the Resurrection

Lyrics on screen

Easter Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP), 355

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

The Collect for Purity (*in unison*)

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 (*in unison*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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 forever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching about how He has saved all humankind from the power of death by raising His Son to life again. We respond by affirming our faith, praying for the world, and greeting one another in His Name.

The First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17 (in unison)

BCP, 759

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Song

Speak Lord, I'm Listening

Lyrics on screen

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev'd Dr. Steve Clifton

Reflection questions:

1. Where in your life might you look for Jesus to be walking with you, and how can you recognize his presence and love?
2. How can you stay open to what God is trying to get through to you, even if it is challenging or hard to understand?
3. Do you have a story to share, and where might God want you to share it, being "as Christ" by walking alongside someone else?

After the Sermon, we take a few moments to reflect on God's word to us.

The Nicene Creed

BCP, 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 *(sung)*

lyrics on screen

*In the silence which follows each petition, you are welcome to add your own intercessions:
in the silence of your heart, aloud in your home,
or (if watching the live stream) by typing them in the chat window.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP, 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Deacon 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.

Priest 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

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory

The Officiant says a sentence from Scripture to begin the Offertory.

All are encouraged to make an offering in thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed.

Gifts may be made on the parish website, sjhoptpa.org, or by mail to:

**St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church
2708 N. Central Ave., Tampa FL 33602**

Officiant Let us now pray together in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Lyrics on screen

If there are any special announcements to be given, they take place here, prior to the Blessing.

THE SENDING OUT OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

*We go out into the world to be bold witnesses
telling of Christ's resurrection and the reconciliation of the world to God in love.*

The Easter Blessing (*pronounced by the Priest*)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the flock, through the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Song

Great and Wonderful

Lyrics on screen

The Easter Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**