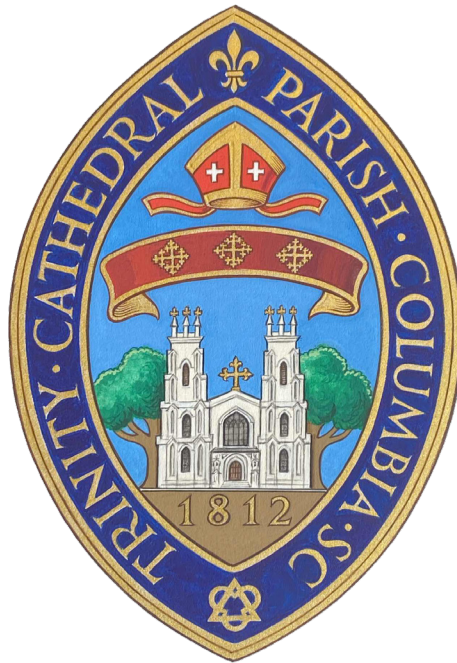


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

MAY 9, 2024 - 5:30PM

FESTAL EVENSONG

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

So what? What difference does it make? Who cares?

Who cares if a first-century carpenter in some backwater province of the ancient Roman Empire ran afoul of the ruling authorities and got himself killed on a cross? What difference does it make that some Jewish preacher told a bunch of semi-literate fishermen and crooked tax collectors and blind, lame, maimed beggars and women of highly-suspect reputations that his death would unfold in precise fulfillment of a divine plan established from before the foundations of the world were laid? And if, as the great last act of his plan, this humble hero, this weak warrior, this meek Messiah told his gullible followers that he would rise again from the dead...so what is that to me and to you?

Let me be clear: if Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead then there is no more meaning to Easter Day than a sugar rush from a basketful of jelly beans and a once-a-year consumption of mint jelly (which is, surely, more than enough for anybody). If Christ is not raised, we who gather in this Cathedral each week are fools—and worse. We are lost. We are separated from God our Creator and our Father. We are cut off from the everlasting promises given to Abraham. We are bereft of the sustaining and sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost. We are dead in our sins. As another first-century Jew—a man called Saul of Tarsus, better known as Saint Paul the Apostle—says, if Christ is not raised, “we are of all men most miserable.”

“But,” Paul continues in his First Letter to the Corinthian Church, “now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” The firstfruits—of an abundant harvest! For if Death is the tyrant ruling over all humankind, if Sin is the sickness infecting every human heart, then Christ Jesus’ victory over those oppressors is great Good News for every human who has ever or will ever live.

If Jesus of Nazareth was who he said he was—is who he says he is—then nothing else in our universe, nothing else in our world, nothing else in our lives, nothing else in our hearts can ever be the same. If Jesus of Nazareth did what the Scriptures say he did—is doing what the Scriptures say he is doing—then Easter is the turning point of all time and space. If Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead—is even now risen from the dead—then this season is the hinge on which all human history bends. Eastertide is the starting point of a new Creation that will not at last go down to dust and decay and Death, but will instead be united with God in eternity.

Perhaps you are sitting in the pew right now listening to the Easter acclamation and wondering “So what? Who cares? What difference does it make?” I pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit you might see and know and believe and trust that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead—and that the life you live hereafter and the death you will one day die might be transformed by this truth. I pray that you will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord here at Trinity Cathedral, where all that we are and all that we do flows from the announcement that the tomb was found empty that first Easter morning. I pray that you will find the grace to say, with all your heart:

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Very Reverend Dane E. Boston, Dean of Trinity Cathedral

FESTAL EVENSONG

Please maintain a reverent silence before the service

The setting of the Preces & Responses is by John Barnard (b. 1948)

The setting of the Canticles is by Charles Stanford (1852-1924)

VOLUNTARY

INTROIT

The Lord ascendeth up on high, the Lord hath triumphed gloriously,
in power and might excelling;
the grave and hell are captive led.
Lo! he returns, our glorious Head, to his eternal dwelling.

The heavens with joy receive their Lord, by saints, by angel hosts adored;
O day of exultation!
O earth, adore thy glorious King!
His rising, his ascension sing with grateful adoration!

Our great High Priest hath gone before, upon his Church his grace to pour;
and still his love he giveth.
O may our hearts to him ascend;
may all within us upward tend to him who ever liveth!

Words: Arthur Russell (1806-1874)
Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

The people stand and join in singing from the blue Hymnal 1982.

Hymn 214 “Hail the day that sees him rise”

Llanfair

THE INVITATORY *(sung by the Officiant and Choir)*

∇ O Lord, open thou our lips.
℞ And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.
∇ O God, make speed to save us.
℞ O Lord, make haste to help us.
∇ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
℞ As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.
∇ Praise ye the Lord.
℞ The Lord's Name be praised.

GREETING

THE PSALM APPOINTED

The people sit for the singing of the Psalm and stand at the Gloria Patri.

Psalm 47

Omnes gentes, plaudite

Clap your hands together, all ye people *
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high, and to be feared *
he is the great King upon all the earth.
He shall subdue the people under us *
and the nations under our feet.
He shall choose out an heritage for us *
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
God is gone up with a merry noise *
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God *
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth *
sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen *
God sitteth upon his holy seat.
The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham *
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a shield.

Music: John Abdenour (b. 1947)

THE FIRST LESSON: Daniel 7.9-14

The people stand.

CANTICLE: *Magnificat - The Song of Mary* The Book of Common Prayer, p. 65

The people sit.

THE SECOND LESSON: Matthew 28.16-20

The people stand.

CANTICLE: *Nunc dimittis - The Song of Simeon*

BCP, p. 66

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS (*sung by the Officiant and Choir*)

∇ The Lord be with you.
℞ And with thy spirit.
∇ Let us pray.
℞ Lord have mercy upon us;
Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung by the Choir*)

THE SUFFRAGES

∇ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
℞ And grant us thy salvation.
∇ O Lord, save the State.
℞ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
∇ Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
℞ And make thy chosen people joyful.
∇ O Lord, save thy people.
℞ And bless thine inheritance.
∇ Give peace in our time, O Lord.
℞ Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

∇ O God, make clean our hearts within us.

℞ And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The people sit.

THE ANTHEM

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion,
and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Thou that hearest the prayer,
unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest and receivest unto Thee.
He shall dwell in Thy courts
and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of Thy house,
even of Thy holy temple.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on Thee.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
because he trusteth in Thee.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord,
the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

Let the people praise Thee, O God,
yea, let all the people praise Thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase:
and God shall give us His blessing.

Words: Psalm 65.1,2,4; Isaiah 26.3,4; Psalm 67.3,6,7
Music: Malcolm Boyle (1902-1976)

The people stand.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING (*said by all*)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Hymn 221 “O Lord Most High, eternal King”

Gonfalon Royal

A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Officiant concludes with the following

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

THE DISMISSAL (*sung by the the Officiant and choir*)

☩ The Lord be with you.

℞ And with thy spirit.

☩ Let us bless the Lord.

℞ Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Sunday service schedule through May 19

8:00am Holy Eucharist in Keenan Chapel

9:00am Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral

11:00am Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral

4:00pm Festal Evensong in the Cathedral

5:00pm Holy Eucharist in Keenan Chapel

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Choir: The Cathedral Choir of Girls, Boys, Young Men, and the altos, tenors and basses of the Cathedral Singers.

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards, *Bishop*

The Very Reverend Dane E. Boston, *Dean*

The Reverend Canon James P. Hartley, *Sub-Dean & Canon Pastor*

The Reverend Canon Mia C. McDowell, *Canon Catechist*

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