

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25th, 2021 9:00 a.m. Virtual Worship



Bouquet, Lithograph from *Verve*, 1938
Georges Rouault

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GATHERING

Prelude: *Con moto maestoso* from Sonata III in A Major Felix Mendelssohn

The majestic opening of Mendelssohn's (1809-1847) third organ sonata had its origins as a march he began writing for his sister Fanny's wedding. As it turned out, Felix was injured and unable to attend her wedding, leading Fanny to compose her own entrance march. Felix repurposed his composition as the dramatic opening for this sonata. This music quickly leads into the minor mode and a "crescendo fugue" that plays out above the appearance in the pedal of Hymn 151, "From Deepest Woe I Cry to Thee." Following a mighty climax, the grand opening music returns to conclude the movement.

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THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamations

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Collect of the Day

Bishop Let us pray.

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 First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

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."

The Gospel

John 10:11-18

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

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

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.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Kathryn Ryan

Music for Reflection: *O Blessed Spring* Susan Palo Cherwien & Robert Farlee

O blessed spring, where Word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree. Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears, sustained by Christ’s infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again. When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love. As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our last, return to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring. Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery: that Word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Author Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953) describes her inspiration: “Above the baptismal font in Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis hangs a striking bronze sculpture by the late Paul Granlund, a sculpture which embodies the image of John 15:5 ‘I am the vine; you are the branches.’ Granlund cast a tree with four branches depicting the four ages of human life, with Christ as the central trunk. This bronze provided the structure for the text ‘O Blessed Spring,’ the words of which are woven around a central Christ image.”

St. Mark’s Virtual Choir

Words: Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953)

Music: Berglund, Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Form II, BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those in our community _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The officiant concludes with prayers and a collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest 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.**

Offertory Sentence

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

The Offertory Anthem: *The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott

There in God's garden stand the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty. Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood. Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing." This is my ending, this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy. All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!

SMU Professor Dr. C. Michael Hawn writes that, "The concept of the Tree of Life is pervasive around the world. Many religious traditions as ancient as pre-Islamic Persia, ancient Egypt, ancient Armenia, and Assyria include symbols of the Tree of Life. Buddhism has the tradition of the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha sat when he attained Enlightenment. Within the Christian tradition, one must distinguish between the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in Genesis 2-3 where the fall of humanity took place, and the Tree of Life, a symbol of Christ himself. More recently, Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The Cross is the true tree of life." Composer K. Lee Scott (b. 1950) is an internationally known teacher, musician, conductor, and composer of sacred music who lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

St. Mark's Virtual Choir

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Announcements

The Peace

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

Postlude: *Finale from Symphony No. 1 in D Minor*

Louis Vierne

This most celebrated of Vierne's (1870-1937) works for organ is a noble and heroic piece. Written for the magnificent Cavallé-Coll organs in the great churches of Paris, Vierne called it "my Marseillaise"—based on a broad, powerful theme in the pedal showered with sun-bright figurations for the hands. The center of the movement is occupied by a contrasting thoughtful episode and a development of the bass motive before the opening music is restated to bring the movement to a triumphant close.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Sunday Schedule, beginning May 2!

Worship Schedule

- **8:30am** - Rite I, Indoors and live-streamed to Facebook - **RSVP required**
- **9:30am** - Rite II, Parking Lot Eucharist, full liturgy with singing, RSVP encouraged
- **10:30am** - Family Picnic Eucharist, Front Lawn, RSVP encouraged

Coffee/Taco Hour & Sunday School Schedule

- **10:30am** - Coffee & Tacos (Parking Lot)
- **10:45am** - Sunday School, Indoors (Sanctuary)
- **11:30am** - Coffee & Tacos (Playground)
No supervised play; parents must remain with children
Building open for restroom use only

Sunday School Series today via Zoom, 9:45am: *The Resurrection Appearances*: discussing the various resurrection accounts in scripture, led by The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings. Join us next week, May 2, as we begin in-person Sunday School at 10:45am, in the Sanctuary.

Save the date: Graduation Sunday will be on May 23rd during the parking lot service.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Sunday Livestream Worship, 8:30 a.m.** (beginning May 2).
- **Tuesday Noon Bible Study:** the link will be shared on our website. All are welcome!
- **Morning Prayer meets 8:30 a.m. M-F.** Check our home page for the link.

Parish Intercession List

You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.

For healthcare workers and teachers: Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

For those celebrating birthdays: Henry Lambert, Erin Portman, Jack Whalen, Michael Alder, Vanessa Joyce, Shirley Schwartz, Irma Glover, Sara Thiessen, Genevieve Gehlken, Keith R. Kreitner, Beatriz Lavalle.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Kathleen & Thomas Allen, Erin & Michael Portman, Danielle & Bill Adkins, Virginia & Stuart Sullivan, Renee & John Trudeau.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lector: Karen Milton



ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Join us at www.stmarksaustin.org, and
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St. Mark's Staff

The Rev. Zac Koons, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara White, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Mary Keenan, *Curate*

Mark Reed, *Organist/Director of Music and Bookkeeper*

Joanne Foote, *Parish Administrator*

Karon Hammond, *Head of St. Mark's Day School*

Irma Glover, *Sexton*