

# PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— HOUSTON, TEXAS —

*Bringing the peace of Jesus  
to the whole world*



THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER  
CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II  
7:00 PM  
APRIL 19, 2025

**6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196**

**PALMERCHURCH.ORG**



## *Welcome to Palmer for the Great Vigil of Easter.*

We are a community of Christians worshiping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this evening. Scan the QR code to the left or visit [palmerchurch.org/connect](http://palmerchurch.org/connect) to fill out a welcome card or a request for prayer.

### **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should join in the line on the left side of the church and let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God's grace today.

### **RECEIVING A BLESSING**

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

### **SEEKING BAPTISM**

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please send an inquiry to [info@palmerchurch.org](mailto:info@palmerchurch.org). It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

### **MEDICAL CENTER GUESTS**

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston by contacting Suzie Dennis at [sdennis@palmerchurch.org](mailto:sdennis@palmerchurch.org).

### **CARING FOR THE WELLNESS OF OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY**

We strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccinations and boosters. Masking is optional.

### **CLERGY AND LITURGICAL CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life and Membership*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Sunkyung Smith, *Associate Organist*

Roger Hutchison, *Director of Children's and Youth Ministries*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Will Parker, *Seminarian*

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, *Children's Choirs*

## **OUR MISSION**

To know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ through deep understanding of our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors, in a joyfully engaged and welcoming community, dedicated to thoughtful and focused service, and inspired by worship that renews curiosity about all of creation.

## **OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **Liturgical Excellence**

We believe in sharing God's unconditional love in Jesus, which we call grace, with all who come through our church doors. The beauty and power of our liturgy drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition are the beginning, not the end, of our weekly Christian journey. Like a flourishing tree, they root us in the past, shelter us in the present, and reach out to the future with the strength and confidence of God's promises to all.

### **Joyful Companionship**

We believe spending time together and connecting across the generations fosters our spiritual growth. Palmers accompany each other on our pilgrimage with God, toward God. We are an ever-growing household, for the youngest child and each of us through the end of life, built with grace, love, acceptance, laughter, tears, service, singing, and Jesus as our cornerstone.

### **Bold Curiosity**

We believe the gift of inquiry, curiosity, and profound conversation leads to a greater understanding of our place in God's creation and our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus is experienced in our worship and also through artistic expression, intellectual generosity, and spiritual teaching.

### **Spiritual Sanctuary**

We believe God loves each of us, no exceptions. As human beings created in God's image, we should have a place where the love of Jesus is made real, a place where we can experience the celebration of who we are and an acceptance of where we are on life's journey. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith and a beacon of hope for those seeking spiritual refuge.

### **Loving Service**

We believe following Jesus, as we are called to do, involves caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves, joining in God's mission to connect with and work alongside an extraordinary array of people, institutions, and communities, and bearing witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

*In the darkness, fire is kindled after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these words*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Celebrant bearing the candle, leads the procession, pausing three times for these words to be sung*

The Light of Christ.

People      **Thanks be to God.**

*Light is passed from the Paschal Candle, which is then placed in its stand, after which the cantor sings*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Cantor      The Lord be with you.

People      **And also with you.**

Cantor      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People      **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son. How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings in these words*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God's people were saved in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

### The Story of Creation

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalms 33:1-11

Plainchant

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;  
it is good for the just to sing praises.  
Praise the Lord with the harp;  
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.  
Sing for him a new song;  
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.  
For the word of the Lord is right,  
and all his works are sure.  
He loves righteousness and justice;  
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.  
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,  
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.  
He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin  
and stores up the depths of the sea.  
Let all the earth fear the Lord;  
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.  
For he spoke, and it came to pass;  
he commanded, and it stood fast.  
The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught;  
he thwarts the designs of the peoples.  
But the Lord's will stands fast for ever,  
and the designs of his heart from age to age.

*Celebrant* Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:  
Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted;  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge;  
the Lord has become my Savior.  
This is my God and I will praise him,  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.  
The Lord is a mighty warrior;  
Yahweh is his Name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea;  
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.  
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them;  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might;  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods?  
who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand;  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed;  
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign  
for ever and for ever.

*Celebrant* Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Canticle: *A Song to the Lamb*

Donald Pearson

Splendor and honor and kingly pow'r  
are yours by right,  
O Lord our God.

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
for with your blood you redeemed for God,  
from every family, language, people and nation,  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

For you created everything that is,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.

And so to him who sits upon the throne,  
and to Christ the Lamb be worship and praise,  
dominion and splendor, for evermore and evermore.

*Celebrant* Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All remain standing. Silence is kept as the organ rumbles. Then the candles at the altar are lighted from the Paschal Candle.*

## The Paschal Shout

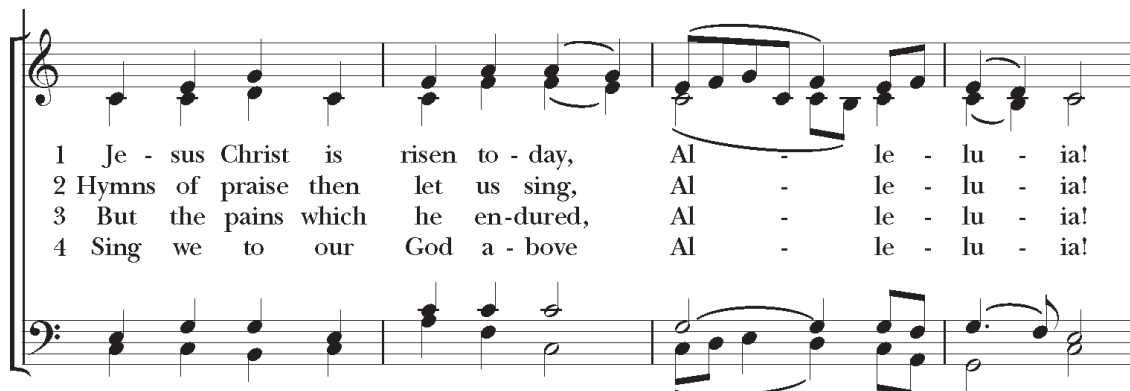
*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

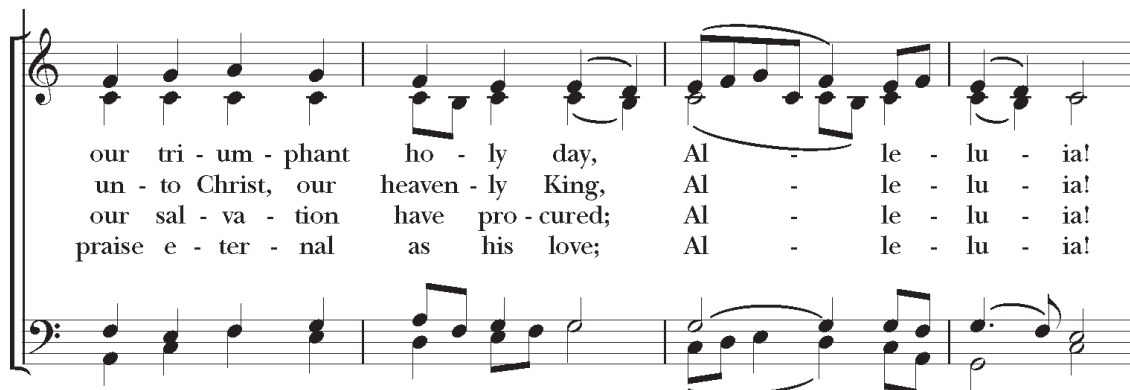
*To hail the risen Lord and signal that death has been defeated, we make as much noise as possible. If you have musical instruments or bells, now is the time to put them to use.*

Hymn 207 "Jesus Christ is risen today"

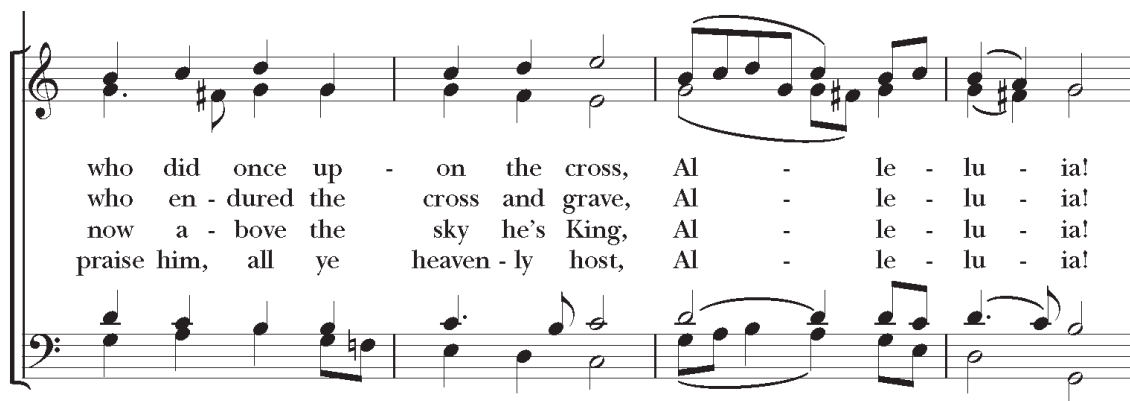
*Easter Hymn*



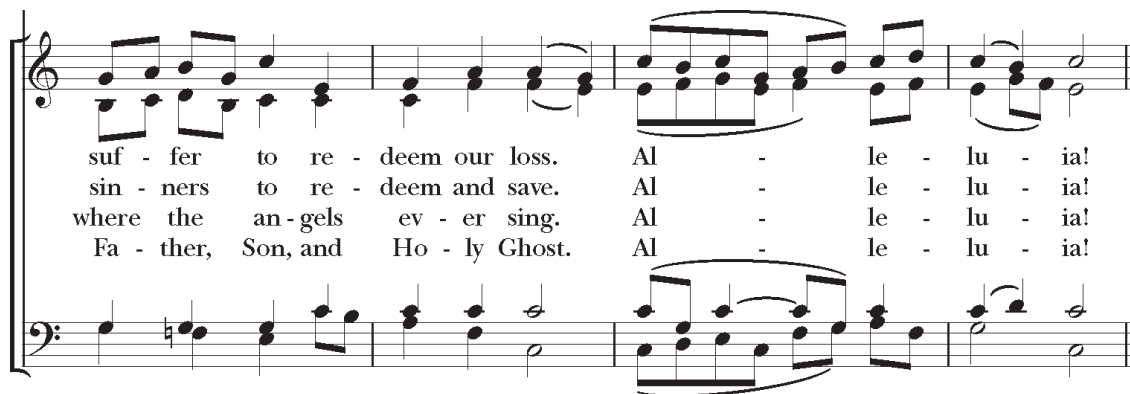
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:3–11

*Reader* A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.


For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.


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

Sequence Hymn 199 "Come, ye faithful, raise the strain"


St. Kevin  
 Descant: Knapp




1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:



loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

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

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord

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

## The Sermon

The Reading of the Easter Sermon of St. John Chrysostom (c. 347-407)

*This is one of the most famous sermons of the early Church after the time of the New Testament. It is read aloud every year at Easter in Orthodox churches throughout the world. It reminds us that even those who lack consistent faithfulness (i.e., all of us) and come to the feast "at the eleventh hour" are welcome at the Lord's Table. "Let no one go away hungry," he says to us, on this holy night.*

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

*The Celebrant says*

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*Then the candidate unable to answer for herself is presented individually by her Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and Godparents*

I present Laura Jane Schurman to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented, the Celebrant asks the parents or grandparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.



*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infant.*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in her life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **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.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **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.**

*Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

### Prayers for the Candidate

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*A person appointed leads the following petitions.*

*Leader* Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open her heart to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send her into the world in witness to your love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Thanksgiving over the Water

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

*The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then immerses, or pours water upon the person, saying*  
Laura Jane, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying*

Laura Jane, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the newly baptized, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says this or another sentence of Scripture to begin the Offertory.*

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for you have created all things.

*Revelation 4:11*

*Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate that will be passed in the pews. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at [palmerchurch.org/give](http://palmerchurch.org/give) or by using this QR code.*



Offertory Anthem: *An Easter song of praise*

Richard Shepherd

Sing choirs of heaven.

Let saints and angels sing.

Around God's throne exult in harmony! Now

Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. Salute your

king in glorious symphony. Sing choir of earth.

Behold your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly.

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death.

The night is past, the day of life is here. Sing church of God.

Exult with joy outpoured.

The gospel trumpets tell of victory won! Your Saviour lives, he's with you evermore.

Let all God's people shout the long Amen.

The Doxology (*Hymn 380, verse 3*)

*Old 100th*


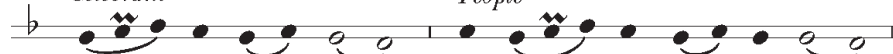


**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.	
<i>Celebrant</i>	
	
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
<i>People</i>	
	
It is right to give our thanks and praise.	

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

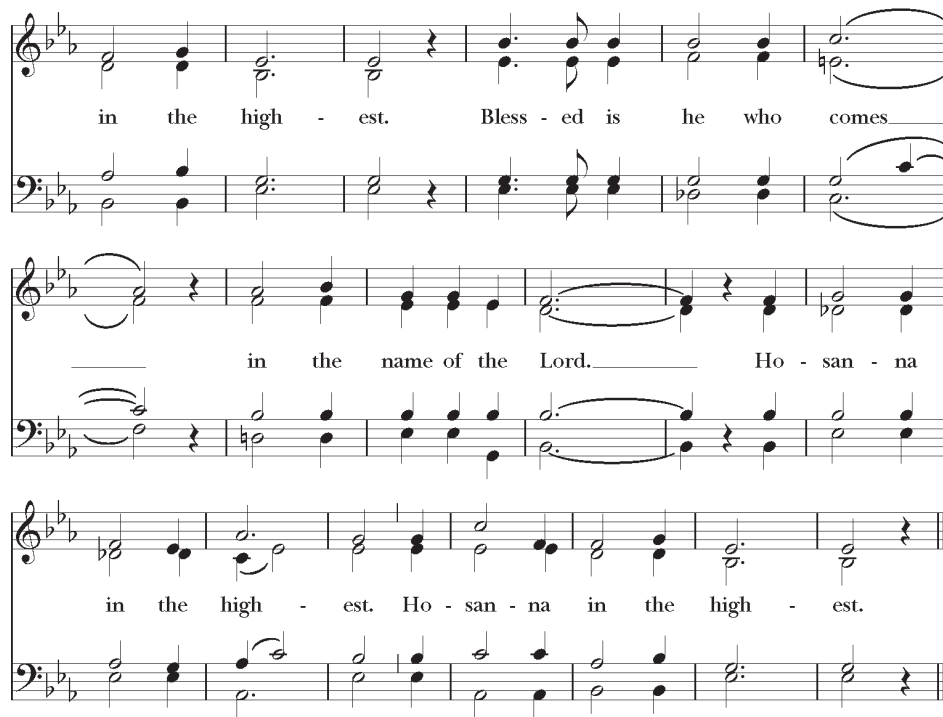
Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

*Sanctus (Hymnal S-130)*

Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na





We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

*Celebrant* Our Father,  
*People*     **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 Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Agnus Dei S-164*

Schubert

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, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The lyrics are: '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, re - deem - er of the world:', and 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Anthem: *Easter Carol*

David H. Williams

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,  
for our offenses given;  
but now at God's right hand He stands  
and brings us light from heaven.  
Therefore let us joyful be  
and sing to God right thankfully  
loud songs of hallelujah.  
Hallelujah!

It was a strange and dreadful strife  
when life and death contended;  
the victory remained with life,  
the reign of death was ended.  
Holy Scripture plainly saith  
that death is swallowed up by death;  
his sting is lost forever.  
Hallelujah!

Anthem: *Birds Are Singing*

Eleanor Daley

Birds are singing,  
Woods are ringing  
With thy praises  
Blessed King;  
Lake and mountain,  
Field and fountain  
To thy throne their tributes bring  
We Thy children join the chorus  
Merrily, cheerily, gladly praise Thee;  
Glad hosannas, glad hosannas,  
Joyfully we lift to Thee

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,  
whom God so freely gave us;  
He died on the accursed tree-  
so strong His love to save us.  
See His blood upon our door;  
faith points to it, death passes o'er,  
and Satan cannot harm us.  
Hallelujah!

So let us keep the festival  
whereto the Lord invites us;  
Christ is Himself the Joy of all,  
the Sun that warms and lights us.  
By His grace He doth impart  
eternal sunshine to the heart;  
the night of sin is ended.  
Hallelujah!

Waters dancing, sunbeams glancing,  
Sing thy glory cheerily;  
Blossoms breaking, nature waking,  
Chant thy praises merrily.  
Angels soon will join the chorus  
Which all earth shall sing to thee;  
Heaven be ringing, earth be singing, Praises to  
thee joyfully.

Hymn 178 "Jesus is Lord of all the earth"

*Alleluia No. 1*

*Descant*

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

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

*1-4* *Final Ending*

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

*Repeat Refrain*

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -  
 Now we shall live for ev - er.  
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

*The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.*



# Hymn 210 "The day of resurrection"

Ellacombe

*Descant*

3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;  
 the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain  
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,

for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

*After communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The people stand or kneel*

*Celebrant* Almighty and everliving God,

*People* 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,  
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.

*The Priest gives the blessing*

Now unto the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of divine glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Hymn 180 "He is risen, he is risen"

*Unser Herrscher*  
*Descant: Knapp*



1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and  
 \*3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -  
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
 ra - dian brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming  
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,  
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the  
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.  
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

Postlude: Final, from Symphony No. 1

Louis Vierne

# TOGETHER, WE PRAY

## Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen	Michael Gamboa	The Rev'd Liz Parker
Mike Allison	Allison Gould	Patricia Lynn Paxton
Georgia Barton	Wayne Green	David Renaud
Kim Bavousett	Mac Hall	Bill Robertson
Roger Beebe	Brandon Hertz	Don Robinson
Brown Family	Patricia Hinojosa	Roxane Short
Jack Browns	Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb	Bill Tilney
Leigh Anderson Burdette	Holman Family	Eleanor Viebig
Cynthia Candler and family	Linda Ittner	Fran Wallis
Carlos	Jack	Daniel Allen White
Katie Courtney	Roy Knapp, Jr.	David Ashley White
Janet Covington	Jim Lober	Randy William
Dan Cromack	Jo Lyday	Lewis Williams
Ruth Davies	Mauro	Arnold Willis
Carlo DelForte	Don May	Ruth Wilkes
Maria De Nazare	The Miller Family	Marie Woodward
Dan and Cathy Dodge	Felicia Pace-Hamilton	Audrey Worthing
David Furr	Boisen "Buzz" Palmer	Donna Yacoe

Names remain on the list for two Sundays unless the request is renewed by contacting one of the coordinators of our Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Davies at [rmmdavies@cebridge.net](mailto:rmmdavies@cebridge.net) for Palmers or Suzie Dennis at [sdennis@palmerchurch.org](mailto:sdennis@palmerchurch.org) for non-Palmers.

## Please pray for expectant households or families with newborns:

Matthew and Clare Van Arsdale

Those expecting a child by birth or adoption are encouraged to contact Roger Hutchison at [rwhutchison@palmerchurch.org](mailto:rwhutchison@palmerchurch.org).

## Please pray for those in the armed forces:

Evan Adams	Connor Hurt	Harrison Power
Nathan Adam	Jarrett Johnson	Jim Rosenbach
Michael Anderson	Christopher Kent	Adam Salvati
Gaston Baza	James King	Matthew Van Arsdale
Travis Chambers	Mike Martinez	Ashley Waddle
Owen Green	Nate Miller	Alex Walker
John Harrison	Andrew Nesom	Taylor Wilby

## Please pray for our congregation's five-year strategic plan called *Come. Be. Palmer.*

*God of grace and glory, you are faithful from one generation to another: Grant to us, as Palmers, the courage to know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ, that our own hearts and the world around us may be changed and reflect more and more your great mercy and compassion; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

For more information visit [palmerchurch.org/strategicplan](http://palmerchurch.org/strategicplan)

## DEDICATION

The high altar candles for Easter are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Peter Lewis Chapman by Martha, Matthew, and Henry Chapman.

# JOIN US FOR EASTER DAY SERVICES

**EASTER DAY | April 20** *\*Note the shift in times to accomodate extra guests.*

**9:00 AM The Second Eucharist of Easter, Rite II, in the Church**

*This service will include hymns and anthems by the adult choir.*

**11:00 AM The Third Eucharist of Easter, Rite I, in the Church**

*This service will include hymns and anthems by the adult choir.*

Free parking will be available in the Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza parking garage located across Cambridge Street from the church at 6400 Fannin Street. Simply bring the ticket you receive when entering the parking garage to the Welcome Table at the front entrance of the church to validate it. Upon exiting the parking garage, if the ticket machine indicates that you owe a fee, press the cancel button, and then insert your validated parking ticket into the machine. The gate will go up right away. Again, if you need assistance, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine.

Free parking will also be available in the parking lot to the north of Palmer's campus on the morning of Easter Day. Free parking will also be available in the parking lot to the south of Palmer's campus, along the Palmer side of Main Street, and on the other side of Main Street at Rice University in the Founder's Court parking lot. For information about where the Founder's Court parking lot is located and how to take advantage of that offer, please use the following link to the Welcome Page on the church website, which also includes details about options for paid parking in the parking garages at Rice University's Cambridge Office Building and Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza: <https://palmerchurch.org/welcome/>

*For more info visit [palmerchurch.org/holyweek](https://palmerchurch.org/holyweek)*