

# *The Easter Season*



## *St. Alban's Episcopal Church April 19, 2020*

**Our Mission:** *We are called by the Spirit to be transformed by God in heart and mind, to serve our community, UCLA, and the world as the Body of Christ. We will grow in faith, hope and love through the practices of worship, formation, compassion and hospitality.*

**Prelude**

*Alleluia, Christ is Arisen from the Dead!*

**Opening Hymn**

**“Come Ye Faithful”**

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

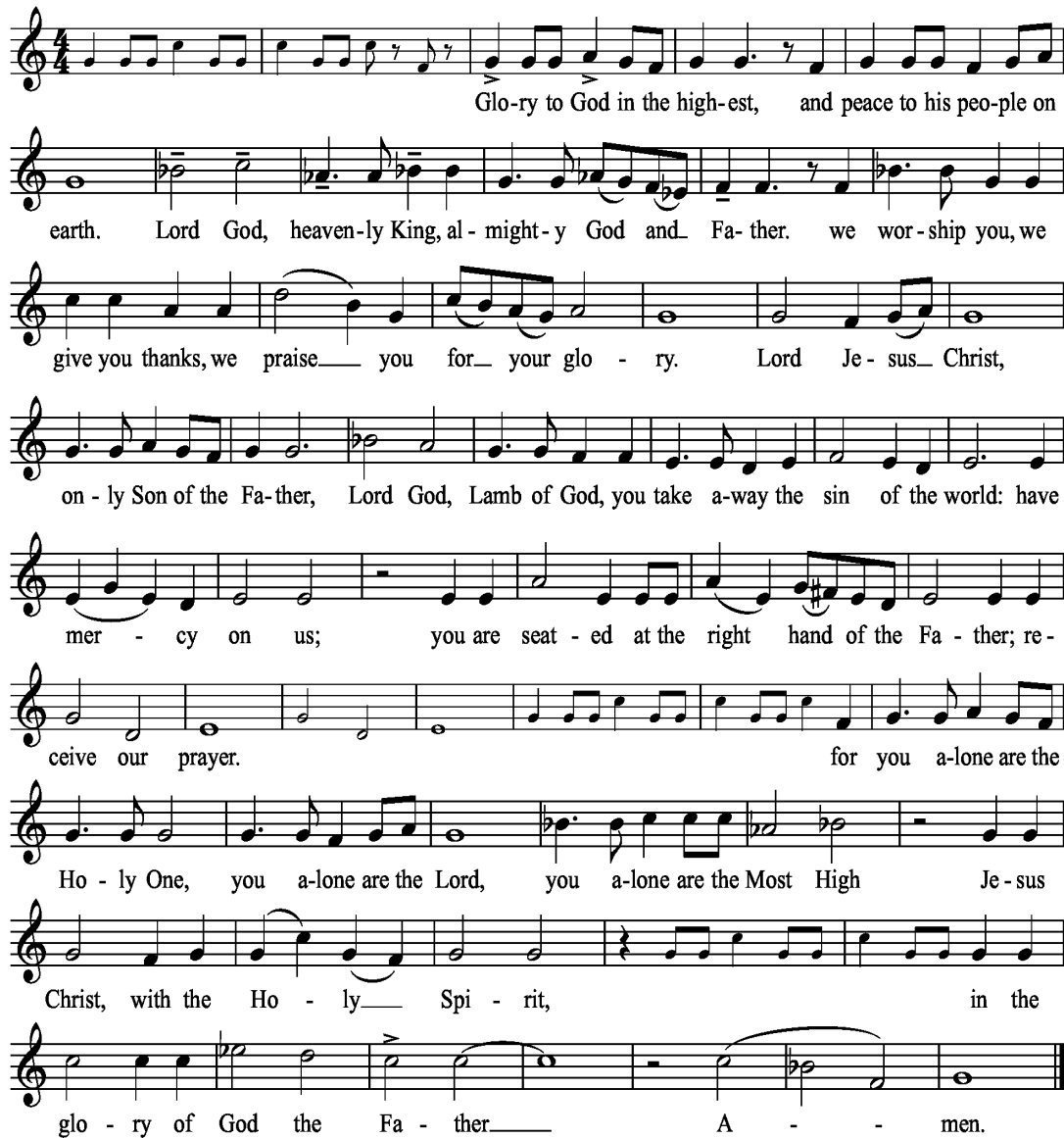
led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
 People: *The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Officiant: 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.

People: *Amen.*

## The Gloria



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on  
earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al- might- y God and Fa- ther. we wor- ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise— you for— your glo - ry. Lord Je- sus— Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have  
mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re -  
ceive our prayer. for you a-lone are the  
Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High Je - sus  
Christ, with the Ho - ly— Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther— A - - men.

## The Collect of the Day

**Officiant:** Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People:** *Amen.*

## The First Reading

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But

God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## The Second Reading

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

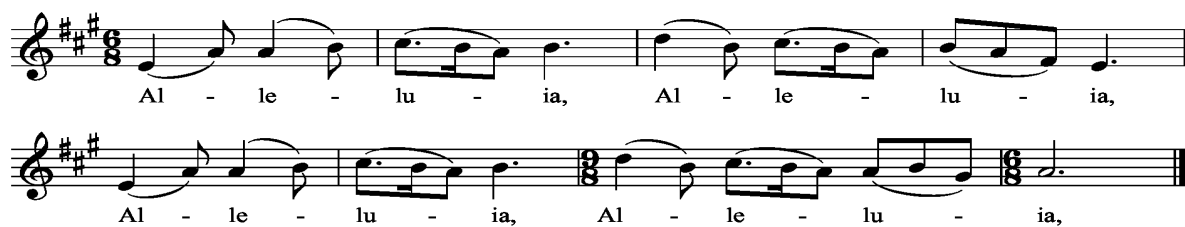
The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## The Gospel

Gospel Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (20:19-31)

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*



When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not

doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Gospel Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*



## The Sermon

The Very Rev. Sylvia Sweeney

## Musical Meditation *I Know a Lovely Garden*

Mary E. Caldwell

Text MEC

I know a lovely garden that was strangely hushed  
and still.  
On that first Easter morn when dawn came gently  
o'er the hill.  
Three women, in their sorrow, came with spices  
rare,  
They searched for Christ entombed among the lilies  
fair.  
They knew no thought of hope, only deepest despair,  
Until an angel standing there showed them the  
empty tomb!

I have a lovely garden now where flowers are  
wondrous fair,  
I walk the paths where spring's soft touch  
has left a fragrance rare.  
I marvel at the beauty of the earth reborn.  
I know that death is banished on that Easter  
morn.  
The miracle of life bids my soul rejoice!  
The risen Christ is calling me, I hear his voice.  
And in the garden, I whisper his beloved name.

Wendy Caldwell, *soprano*

## The Nicene Creed

Reader: Let us join in affirming our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

*People: 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**

Adapted from *Intercessions for Christian People*

Reader: In the power of God's new life, revealed in the Risen Lord, we pray to the Lord.  
O God, you have blessed with faith those who see your presence in the wounded hands and feet of Jesus. You have also blessed with faith those who have not seen, yet believe your Gospel. We give you thanks for the faith you have given us, and we pray that we may share with---and be--- the good news for people everywhere. Lord in your mercy,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Turn the eyes of the leaders of the nations to envision a new world in which swords are turned into plowshares, and where justice reigns.

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: As the earliest Christians held all things in common, and shared their abundance with the needy, give us the spirit of generosity in all things. Help us to overcome hunger and homelessness among the human family. Lord in your mercy,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: For prisoners and hostages, for those in mental anguish, for the sick and suffering, especially for \* Lord in your mercy,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: For all who have died and for all who grieve, that in Christ who has triumphed over death, they may find light perpetual and eternal love, especially for \* Lord in your mercy,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: O God, we thank you for revealing to us the mystery of resurrection, of life springing up in the midst of death. Help us to be Easter People, bringing into being works of justice and peace that your world and its peoples may flourish. In Jesus' name we pray,

**People:** *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## **The Anthem**

*Good Christians, Rejoice and Sing*

arr. B. Wayne Bisbee

Text Cyril A. Alington

Good Christians all rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen for aye:  
bring flowers of song to strew his way;  
Let all mankind rejoice and say: Alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son,  
To God, the Spirit, Always One,  
We sing for life in us begun: Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia!

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*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.*

## **The Blessing**

## The Closing Hymn

*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.

## The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us go forth in the light of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*