

Christ Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist Rite II
The Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026 10 AM

PRELUDE

Organ *O for the wings of a dove*
O sons and daughters, let us sing H 206

F. Mendelssohn
H. Willan

ENTRANCE HYMN *Jesus lives, thy terrors now*

H 195

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can no longer, death, appall us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

2. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Savior giving.
Alleluia!

3. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

4. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he has gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE *spoken in unison*
all standing

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a,22-32

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord
People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
 I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
 my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
 upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
 shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
 nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
 it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
 indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
 my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
 because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

SEQUENCE HYMN HYMN *O sons and daughters, let us sing*
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

H 206

1. O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heaven, the glorious King,
o'er death today rose triumphing.
Alleluia!

2. That night the apostles met in fear;
amidst them came their Lord most dear,
and said, "My peace be on all here."
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN HYMN *O sons and daughters, let us sing*

H 206

5. No longer Thomas then denied,
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia!

6. How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been;
for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE SERMON

THE CREED

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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and our Bishop Sally French, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Middletown, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering especially Laura Tozio-Ross, Dean Kolojeski, Marianne Robbins, Cindy Roberti, Dennis and Samantha, Heather Terrace-Borgersen, Br. Richard Biernacki, Lisa Sassone, Pat Corbitt, Karen Peck, Ashley Wilson, Lou and Scott Friedersdorff, Joann Hartswell and all those listed in the prayers of the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed especially Joyce Friedersdorff, Samira Saba, Neil R. Grootenboer, Adrienne Belicose, Eleanor A. Schuler and Helen "Donnie" Kovalevich, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Priest says

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

***Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

The Peace is now exchanged

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

Announcements:

Birthdays

Neil Grootenboer 04/17

Wedding

Joanna Schiaffo and Eric Haber (03/28/26)

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY HYMN *He is risen, He is risen!*

H 180

1. He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison;
let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.

2. Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed;
Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore—
sin and pain can vex no more.

4. He is risen, he is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

***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, or ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Celebrant says,

Let us say together on behalf of our friends online:

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world who have gathered to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

If you are unsure as to whether or not you are permitted to receive communion, please know that you are! All are always welcome at God's table!

COMMUNION MUSIC *This joyful Eastertide* H 192 D. Wood

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

RECESSIONAL HYMN *We walk by faith and not by sight* H 209

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear from him
who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.

2. We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice;
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

4. that, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ!

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

POSTLUDE : *Jesus Christ is risen today* H 207

C. Tambling

Those for Whom We Pray

Laura Tozio-Ross, Stanley Iyczek, Jay, Cindy Roberti, Ted Owen, Cara Scarpati, Dijana Sottile, Br. Richard Biernacki, Lisa Sassone, Pat Corbitt, Thomas Wilson, Heather Terrace-Borgersen, Jim Cross, Joyce Caldon, Karen Peck, Mary Musser, Warren S., Lynn F., Ericka M., Chris, Marianne Robbins, Karen Shaughnessy, Debbie, Morgan, Nicholas C., Eddie Edabach, Millie, Alex and Carly Kovalevich, Kay Lynn Jantz, Pat Murphy, Jack, Ashley Wilson, Craig, David, Lou and Scott Friedersdorff, Sandra Noecker, Judith Brown, Joann Hartswell, Ronnie Warren, Michael S., Katie, Naomi, Preston, Rafi, Shanda, Steve Kruft, Chris, William Willis, Denise, Jane Strong, Naomi, Edward Liska, John, Henry Campbell, Lisa Campbell, Barbara Hutchinson, Annabelle Suarez, Jackie Butler, Allison Geist, Auston Dimitry, Russel Poles, Maryellen S., Martin Spindell, Theresa Juskiewicz, Sydney D., Dylan D, Carmen Holmstrom, Steve Brody, Fabiola Resto, Ingrid Perilloux, Asiyat Aral, Lilly, Sawyer Hines, Darleen Colgan, Sami, Ellen, Elena, Michael A., Emily Straniero

Birthdays

Neil Grootenboer 04/17

Wedding

Joanna Schiaffo and Eric Haber (03/28/26)

Recently Departed

Joyce Friedersdorff

In Memoriam

Samira Saba, Neil R. Grootenboer, Adrienne Belicose, Eleanor A. Schuler and Helen

“Donnie” Kovalevich

Joseph Peck, Jr.

SERVING OUR WORSHIP**Celebrant and Preacher**

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton

Altar Guild

Pauline Dawson, Judy Kelso, Susan Murphy, Pascaline Tran, Collette Morris

Ushers

Dan Thurman, Joyce Wright, Clint Badal and Drew Wilson

Altar Servers

Linda Barth, George Speidel, Sydney Sparaco and Dylan Sparaco