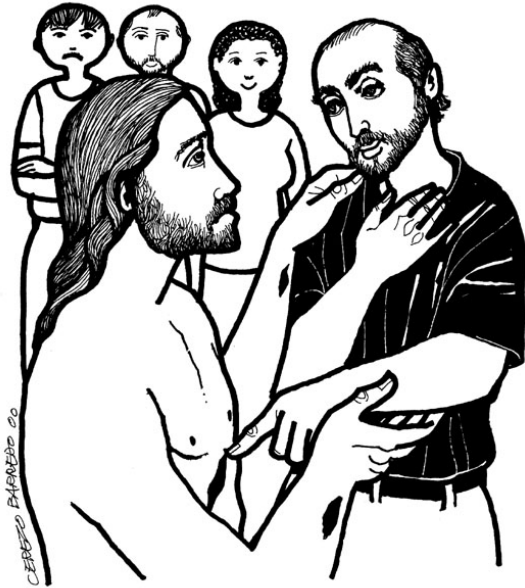


**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**April 3, 2016**



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
1512 Willow  
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas  
Fr. John Scott Trotter

870 740 9777  
[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](http://www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville)

# Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Opening Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #179 - Welcome Happy Morning

## Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** *Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

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.*

## Glory to God

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #280*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

The musical score is written on five staves. The first four staves are in G major. The fifth staff begins with a key signature change to E major, indicated by a sharp sign above the first measure. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the notes for 'Christ', 'Lamb', and 'of' in the final line.

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. 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.

## 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 people sit.*

# The Word of God

## First Reading

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (5:27-32).

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Psalm 150

*BCP p. 807*

*Laudate Dominum*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; \*  
praise him for his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram’s-horn; \*  
praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; \*  
praise him with strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*

praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath \*  
praise the LORD.  
Hallelujah!

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Second Reading**

A reading from The Revelation to John (1:4-8).

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,

<sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People

Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

The Hymnal 1982 #209 - We walk by faith and not by sight

## Gospel

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

Glory to you Lord Christ

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> 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." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

People  
Praise to you Lord Christ

*The people sit.*

## **Sermon**

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*All say together*

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 people kneel or stand as they are able*

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Intercessor**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve  
you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the  
world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*



*The People may add their own petitions.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Collect**

BCP 223

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Confession of sin**

### **Penitential Sentence**

*The Presider then says*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14, 16*

*The people kneel as they are able.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*All say together*

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.

## **Absolution**

*Bishop or Priest*

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 people stand as they are able.*

## **The Peace**

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

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

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

# The Holy Communion

*The people sit.*

## **Our work this week**

## **The Offertory**

*The Priest says*

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
*Pslam 118:24*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as their alms are brought forward.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

*The Hymnal 1982 # 380, vs 3*

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

**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.*

### *Celebrant*

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:

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #130*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and". The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

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

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



*The people kneel or stand as they are able*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Celebrant**                      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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

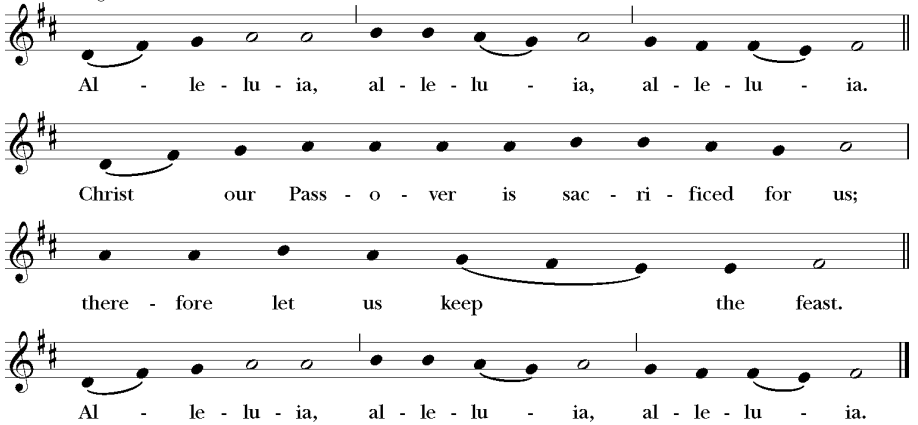
# The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #154*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The Priest invites the people to Communion*

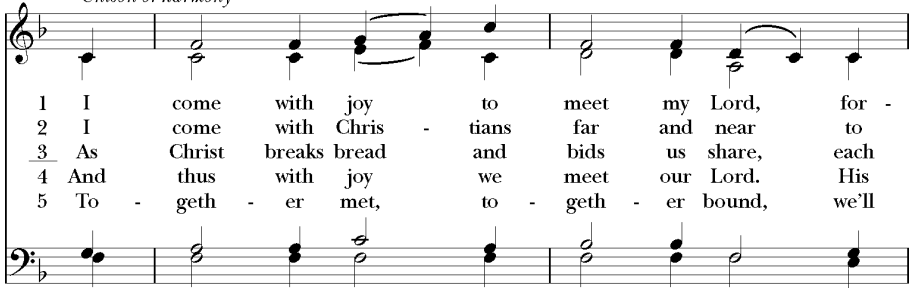
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to our Lord's Table. If you wish to receive communion please extend your hands, one over the other, to receive the bread of Christ. To receive a blessing cross your arms over your chest. To receive the cup of Christ, guide the chalice to your lips. If you wish choose not to receive of the cup, please cross arms over your chest. You may choose to remain seated.*

## Communion Hymn

*The Hymnal 1982 #304*

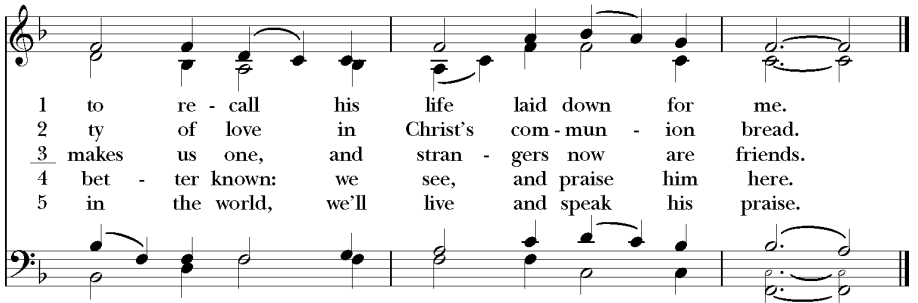
Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright ©1971 by Hope Publishing Company. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983) Copyright ©1938 by J. Fischer & Bro., a division of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

*Silence*

*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 Bishop or Priest says*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## **Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #205 - Good Christians all rejoice and sing

## **Dismissal**

**Deacon**                      Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**People**                        *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## **Prayer List**

Janet, Amber, Josh, Harlan, Sandy, Diane, Lisa, Joyce, Tammy, Betty, Joe, Bill, Mary, Angie, Marcel, Barbara Dale, Gene, Tucker and Ellen, Kelly, Kelly, Susanne, Friday Night Families, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those suffering from seasonal storms and fires, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name:

Those who have died:

## **Announcements**

Work Day April 9 at 9 am

## **Calendar**

April 2nd Sunday of Easter  
9:00 am Eucharist  
10:00 am Fellowship

April 5 6:00 pm Al Anon

April 8 6:00 pm Friday Families

April 9 9:00 am WORK DAY

April 10 3rd Sunday of Easter  
9:00 am Eucharist  
10:00 am Fellowship

## Worship Leaders

Date	Proper	Service	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Intercessor
April 3	2nd Easter	Eucharist	Beth	Mike	Beth
April 10	3rd Easter	Eucharist	Kathryn	Liz	Mike
April 17	4th Easter	Eucharist	Mike	Kathryn	Beth

## Prayer List Request

Please add the following to St Stephen's Prayer list:

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Please add \_\_\_\_\_ to St Stephen's remembrance of the dead (date of death: MM/DD \_\_\_\_\_)

**Fr. Scott's contact**

870 740 9777

[frscott94@gmail.com](mailto:frscott94@gmail.com)



**St. Stephen's contact**

saint.stephens@att.net

[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)

[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](https://www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville)

870 763 8646



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