

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HOME AGAPE MEAL

The Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2020

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Christ is made the sure foundation, vv 1-3

Hymnal 518

Words on last page

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

I Peter 2:2-10

Teaching from St. Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, And, “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

The psalms are spiritual poetry of ancient Israel

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; **make haste to deliver me.**
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, **and in your loving-kindness save me.**

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

The gospels are stories of Jesus’ life

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

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON God's Own People The Rev. Dr. Kate Heichler

PRAYER SONG Come, my way (*Words on last page*) Hymnal 487

OUR PRAYERS

Please respond to: **Risen Lord Jesus** *with* **Hear our prayer.**

Risen Christ, we pray for Your Church, that all over the world we might bear your life to the world. Bless our clergy leaders: our bishops, Mariann and Chilton; our priest, Kate; Deacon Steve; and all believers. Show yourself to us, and send us out to go and to tell the Good News that you are risen from the dead.
Risen Lord Jesus, **Hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, we pray for this world for which you lived and died, and rose again; that we may be delivered from this pandemic and all your people healed; that your peace break out in all places torn by violence or terror or famine or disease or despair, especially those places we name now...

Risen Lord Jesus, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country and leaders, especially Donald and the leaders of our communities. Show us how to best participate in your work of reconciliation and restoration in the great needs of our time.

Risen Lord Jesus, **Hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord Jesus, **Hear our prayer.**

Risen Christ, we celebrate your victory over death itself, and so we pray for those who have gone before us into eternal life, especially:
Even at the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Risen Lord Jesus, **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Prayer.

THE PEACE *(Standing)*

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

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people are invited to participate praying the words in bold type.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right and good to praise You at all times, Almighty God. You are the Love in which we were created; the Life that fills all life; Your Spirit in us empowers our praises, as we join with creatures in heaven and on earth in your song of love:

**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.**

You are holy, most Holy God, and yet You have always walked with your people.
When we turn away to pursue our own ways, you call us back to your way of truth and
life. You made a way for your people through the waters;
You made a way for your people through the wilderness;
You made a way for your people through famine and war and exile.
You are making a way for us through this time of disease and disruption.

In the fullness of time You sent Your own Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Way for us, Truth revealed, Life we are given in You. He called men and women to join Him in His ministry, broken, imperfect people transformed through His friendship into followers. And after His resurrection, He sent upon them His own Spirit, and gave them authority over demons and disease and death itself, sending them out in love to make disciples of all nations. So you call us to nurture your people, equipping us to release our gifts and joy for your mission of love, restoration and wholeness.

On the night He was handed over for us, our Lord Jesus Christ sat at supper with his friends. He told them they were chosen for joy, chosen to bear fruit, fruit that will last. He promised to be with them always, his life filling their lives as the vine nourishes its branches. And then He took bread, and gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this to remember 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 the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.”**

And so we remember, and are remembered, made whole again as Christ’s Body. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ; as in these last days You have poured out Your Spirit on all flesh.

Send your Spirit upon the offerings we have in our homes, that we might share in this feast of love and blessing.

Send upon us your Spirit, to empower our ministry. Give us the fruits of patience, kindness, commitment; fill us with Christ’s life, who himself showed us how to pour ourselves out for the world, whose life ever renews ours.

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.**

**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

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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ, you were broken for us
People **That we might be made whole. Alleluia!**

THE COMMUNION

*In this time of contagion, when we are apart, you are welcome to partake of an Agape meal at home; it is not the same as eucharist, but is a way to share in this blessing.
Together, we join in this prayer:*

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION – *Prayer by St. Alphonsus (1696-1787)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

In union, O God, with your faithful people in every church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. As I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of your Body and Blood, 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.

A PRAYER OF THANKS

Holy God, we are hungry for the bread of life: you have fed us with your Word. We thirst for the cup of grace; you have filled us with abundant Life. As You have given yourself for us, empower us to give ourselves away, as servants, friends, ministers of your love and proclaimers of your freedom, until we come again, hungering and thirsting for you, made whole as your Body once more. This is our prayer until that day when all prayers cease and we stay at this table with You, Father Son and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
COMMUNITY NEWS

CLOSING HYMN Thou art the way *(Words on last page)* Hymnal 457

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ
People **Thanks be to God!**

THE PRAYERS

We give thanks for: Staying connected through this time of social distancing.
We Pray For: Those in need of healing – Melanie Coe, Alicia Cordelle, Steve Blamer, John MacCoy, Marion Denniston, Barry Kercher, Joan Shoemaker, Beverly Stone.

CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTS Wednesdays at 6:45 pm Online – Each Wednesday night at 6:45 we gather on Zoom for a time of Bible study - the Gospel of Mark, which moves at breakneck speed. Then we break up into small groups, using the breakout function in Zoom, to share prayer concerns and at 8 we'll come back together for Night Prayer. *(If you know who you'd like to be in a small group with, please let Rev. Kate know.)* Who might you invite to join you this week? Click [here](#) to join, pw: LPWay; or call in: 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 609 359 4889

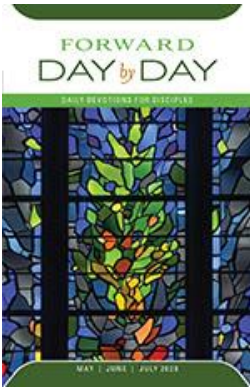
NIGHT PRAYERS AND CHECK IN - Weekday evenings at 8 pm Online - We've been gathering for evening prayers since this Covid-19 social distancing began, and it's been rich and wonderful. So we will continue meeting online each evening to pray and to check in with each other. The format is based on our Compline service but flexible enough that people outside our congregations can wander in and be comfortable. Invite a friend or neighbor or family member - it doesn't matter where they live! There is plenty of room on Zoom. Click [here](#) to join by internet. You can also call in: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 609 359 4889

RENOVATE THE GREEN ROOM? – While we are out of the building, it is a great time to clear, clean and repaint the Green Room on the lower level of the parish house. At Wayside, there are also closets to be cleared and furniture to be moved. Interested? Please talk with Rev. Kate.

ONLINE GIVING - You can text a donation - text "CCLAPLATA" to 73256, and follow the prompts. You can give to Open Plate or toward your pledge. A 2.6% fee is charged for credit or debit cards - you'll have the option to include that in your gift or not. Standard text message rates do apply. You can also give online - go to www.christchurchlaplata.org and scroll down to the "Donate" link.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY

The May-July issue has arrived - if you would like one mailed to you, please [email](#) the office or call 301-259-4327.



RESOURCE BANK - We are building a "resource bank" of skills, assets and ways we might help one another and the broader community. Someone is good at filling out claim forms; another can weed a garden, or render tech help. As much as possible, this help will be online, or if outdoor, practicing safe distancing. Got a skill to offer? Click [here](#). Need help with something? Click [here](#).

GIVING FUND – Please consider making a dedicated donation to the Giving Fund, from which Rev. Kate can offer help. Our policy is to help once, as we are able, and deal with repeat requests on a case-by-case basis. You can write a check or give online at the donate page on our website, www.christchurchlaplata.org, or text “CCLAPLATA” to 73256, and follow the prompts, designating Giving Fund. You now have the option to make pledge offerings or donations online, or by text.

WAYS TO HELP OUT

End Hunger Charles County (a coalition of agencies, including Lifestyles) is creating a network of **Community Cabanas** which will have bags of food available for pick-up. Click [here](#) to [volunteer](#) for one-hour sessions to stand (or sit in car) at at 6-foot distance from the cabana, to instruct clients to take one bag per family. No engagement with clients is expected. 18 or older.

OPENING HYMN	Christ is made the sure foundation	Hymnal 518	3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move; such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.	
1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the Church in one; holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.				
2 All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high, in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody; God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.				
3 To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today; with thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy servants as they pray, and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.				
PRAYER HYMN	Come, my way	Hymnal 487	1 Thou art the Way, to thee alone from sin and death we flee; and all who would the Father seek, must seek him, Lord, by thee.	Hymnal 457
1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.			2 Thou art the Truth: thy word alone true wisdom can impart; thou only canst inform the mind and purify the heart.	
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.			3 Thou art the Life, the rending tomb proclaims thy conquering arm; and those who put their trust in thee nor death nor hell shall harm.	
			4 Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.	