

Church of the Divine Love
THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION/EASTER DAY
April 20th, 2025 10:15 A.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #179 – **Welcome, happy morning!**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 10:34-43**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

Gradual Hymn – **Easter Hallelujah** (on insert)

Gospel: **Luke 24:1-12**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome & Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #182 – **Christ is alive!**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus - S-130 in hymnal page 367

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #208, vs. 1,2,4,5 – **The strife is o'er**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #205 – **Good Christians all, rejoice and sing**

Sermon Sunday April 20, 2025

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12.

Esteemed sisters and brothers in Christ, I am always a bit relieved when our gospel reading for Easter is from St. Luke. He is the only one of the gospel writers to say that the women's news of Jesus' being raised sounded to the apostles like "an idle tale." I like that. I like that the apostles thought this was "an idle tale." I appreciate the company.

I've done enough funerals and had enough friends and loved ones die that I get why it sounds like "an idle tale." This story just doesn't make sense. It doesn't fit my experience with death and I'll bet it doesn't fit yours either. Something about it didn't match the apostles' experience either. Sometimes it does seem like "an idle tale," sort of like looking at pictures of and hearing about somebody else's summer vacation. You know what that's like, right? Good for them, what about me? Good for Jesus, what about us? What good is it to us if Jesus has been raised and we are not? I wonder, though, if we often misunderstand this story as being unique and exclusive to Jesus. What if it was never intended to be primarily about Jesus? Maybe this story is as much or more about what is happening to us as it is what happened to Jesus.

I don't know what happened that first Easter Day. I don't know how whatever did happen happened. But I have come to believe that this story is less about explaining, understanding, making sense of, or even believing what happened that day, and more about experiencing what that day means for you and me today. So, I want to tell you three things I think this story means for us. **First**, it means a promise. It promises a future. And the force of the future is to prevent the present from closing in on us, from closing us up. The promise means we can never say about our life; this is it; this is all there is, or this is how it will always be. Our resurrection is not a future event, something yet to happen. It is a present and everyday reality that promises us a future and the chance that this moment will be transformed and changed. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Second, it means we have hope. It means we have hope for our lives and the lives of those we love. We have hope for something absolutely new, a new birth, a new life. We have hope that our lives matter. It means we have hope in the midst of our doubts and uncertainties, despite the riskiness of life, and when nothing makes sense and the odds are against us. This hope means that we live with a great perhaps and openness to the future. We hope against hope for the unexpected possibility of the impossible. Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Third**, it means a call. The resurrection is a calling on our lives. And this call awaits our response. We are being called to believe in life because life is precious beyond belief. We are being called to appreciate the opportunities of every moment given us and to neither waste nor take for granted a single one. We are being called to live more fully alive and take the risk that there is always more life awaiting us even when it is unimaginable, unforeseeable, and seemingly impossible. The resurrection is wooing and calling us into life, more life, a new life. It is God's yes to us and it asks us to answer, to act, to respond and take the beautiful risk of saying, Yes. yes to life. Yes to more life. Yes to a new life. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A promise, a hope, and a call. That's what our resurrected life looks like. So, let me ask you this: What is the promise giving you today? In what ways is it opening your life? What is your hope today, that deep hope against hope? What are you hoping for that seems too good to be true and against all odds? What is life calling for and asking from you today? What do you need to do or change in order to say yes? I can't answer those questions for you or tell you how you should answer. This is your resurrection. This is your Easter. This is your feast day. And that is true for every one of us here. Regardless of who you are, what you've done or not done, what has or has not happened in your life, what you believe or don't believe, the promise remains, hope abides, and the call persists.

The Easter message was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. That's what I believe. That's what the Church proclaims. Everything about today says you can count on that message. The Easter message becomes an idle tale only when it is held in opposition to our life and world. Resurrection life and truth do not exist in spite of or in opposition to our life's circumstances but because of and in the midst of those circumstances. That means the Easter message of life is found in the midst of death, not apart from it; The Easter message of hope arises from the center of our sorrows and losses, not apart from them; The Easter message of new possibilities is at the heart of business as usual, not

apart from it; Death is real but it is not the end; Jesus died but he is not dead; We may not see or touch Jesus but he is alive and with us. Those are truths of this day. They do not change the circumstances of our life but they change us in the midst of those circumstances. They do not eliminate our difficulties and problems; they see us through those difficulties and problems. They do not turn back time they take us to the first day of the week, at early dawn.

The first day of the week is not just a day on the calendar. It's Luke's way of telling us this is a new beginning, a week of re-creation. That it is early dawn means the sun/son has risen. Am I saying sun, s-u-n, as in light and warmth or am saying son, s-o-n, as in Jesus, the light and life of the world? Yes! Together the sunrise and the sunrise reveal a new life, a new light, a new creation, a new day. It's the first day. I want to live this story. I want to do the truth of this story every day. I want to be the truth of this story. And I want you too as well. This is our day for a new life, for more life. And there is nothing holding us back. The tomb is empty and "he is not here, but has risen." So, let's leave this place like a bunch of crazy people possessed by life. Let's seize the day.

God is true to God's word. Remember what he said, "that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified and, and on the third day rise again." It happened just like he promised. It always does. So why do we seek the living among the dead? He is not there. Christ is risen. If Christ is risen so are we. As long as we continue to return to the tombs of our lives, we will miss the risen Christ, our loved ones, and the life we seek. It may be perplexing or terrifying. It may sound like an idle tale but we do not get what we expect or even what we think we deserve – the body is gone. The spices we brought to cover the smell of death are not needed. The tomb is as empty today as it was the day before Good Friday. There is only life. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION/EASTER DAY

	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	7:00PM	THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
2 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Erika Febres	Janet Croft

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

The flowers decorating the church are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of:

Andrew & Mary Harbolic	Michael Stinson
Blanch & Calvert Johnson	Barbara Stinson
John Johnson	Edwin Noel
Gary Johnson	Harriet Capers
Donald Croft	Ivan Navarro
Roger and Nancy Croft	Matthew R. Treasure
Richard & Shirley Rose	Anthony Diemont
Joseph & Madeline Giordano	Lemane Quatorze
Richard & Josephine Hiller	Valmont Quatorze

Phyllis Hiller	Romene Nicolas
Alliene & Harold Pullen	Sevigne Michaud
Bobby Hosey	Clairmantha Point DuJour
Erica Conklin	Diana & Alf Prosser
Mary & Orlando Credendino	

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Dorothy	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia

Michael & Family

Kristen

Mo

Michelle & Baby

Christopher

Annie

Jerry & Family

Shannon & Family

Donna A.

Moises Parra

Misael Varas

Joseph

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us to speak word of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

