

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Walking Together. Recognizing Jesus. Practicing Resurrection.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

8:00 AM on April 21, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Walking Together, Recognizing Jesus, Practicing Resurrection

The trajectory of Easter. Today is the halfway point in the Great Fifty Days of Easter – the perfect moment to take a look at what the Catechism in the back of the Book of Common Prayer has to say about the Church. For Easter Resurrection may begin 2000 years ago at the empty tomb, but it is brought to fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost, the end of the Easter season, when resurrection comes home to us. The Catechism section on the Church is frustratingly abstract. Read it through, but then realize that a better summation of what the Church is can be found in that “motto” we’ve adopted for St. Andrew’s: *Walking Together, Recognizing Jesus, Practicing Resurrection.*

The Church*

- A. **The Church is the community of the New Covenant.**
- A. **The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.**
- A. **The Church is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.**
- A. **The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- A. **The Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work.**
- A. **The Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time.**
- A. **The Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.**
- A. **The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.**
- A. **The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.**
- A. **The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.**

We are the Church. The key here is to realize that the Church is only secondarily an institution, a building, an organization. It is primarily we: the Baptized, the chosen, the empowered, the sent. It is continually changing, dying, rising, working in all things to carry out its mission to “restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” It is as perfect, and as imperfect, as its members – because it is its members. As our parish motto makes clear, with all its verbs, the Church is not a thing but an action.

*To save space, the Q-questions to which these A-answers respond are not included this morning. You may find them on pp.854-55 of the Prayer Book.

The Word of God

Acclamation	p. 323
Collect for Purity	p. 323
Summary of the Law and Trisagion	p. 324
Gloria	p. 324

Collect of the Day

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Response

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed p. 326

Prayers of the People p. 328

Peace The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements and Celebrations

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer II p. 340

Lord's Prayer p. 336

Breaking of the Bread p. 337

Sharing of Communion

Post Communion Prayer

p. 339

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Pastoral needs should be brought to our Rector, the Rev. Reed Loy, at Reed@StAndrewsHopkinton.org or 207-613-5123(c)

Ministers of the Liturgy

Presider: The Reverend Celeste Hemingson

Usher: Jim Whinn

Lector: Pam Manus

Altar Guild: Annie Mills, Binney Wells

Eucharistic Minister: Marti Hunt

The flowers today are given in honor of Emily Anne Curtis' 31st birthday
by Martha Buttenheim and Pam Minish

In Our Prayers This Week

Those asking healing and God's closer presence: Jill Wilson, Ann Marie Niziolek, Sheila Clement, Christen Hayter, Hisham, Suzanne Brown, George Kopriva, Pat Cotton, Marty Hastings, Michele and Chris, the Largy Family, John Daniel Sweeney, Jeri Mills, Diane Les Becquets, Cam Borton, Caroline Lind, George Langwasser, Wendy Dennis, Denise Vella, Bill Lane, Donnie, Linda D., Alison Klardie, Lachlan, Jude, Brian Tucker, Matt McCormick, Craig, Matthew, Bob Lynch, Jack Friberg, Eliza Townsend, Gretel Kumph, Dennis Martin, Annie Rainbow, Sue Fonte, Bill and Peg, Caelan, Hannah, Brenda, Skip Freed, Luke Tollar, the Smith family, Shawn Birmingham, Jacob, Judy Kidder, Louise Hazen, Savannah Tollar, William, Steve, Jim and Jan Diers, Linda, Helen Borgan, Stephanie Bates

Please note: An AED is available and located in the office hallway.