



**St. Mark's City Heights
Episcopal Church**
MANOS DE DIOS - WE ARE GOD'S HANDS

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 28 April 2024

Morning Prayer @ 9:45 am

Online: tinyurl.com/stmarkszoom

If this is your first time worshipping at St. Mark's, we welcome you! Wherever you are on your journey of faith we are glad you are here, and we invite you to join us in all that we do. If you are joining us online today please know that you are a full member of our family.

The in-person service is being streamed live and pictures may be taken during the service. If you don't wish to be seen on camera or to be photographed, please let us know so we can adjust accordingly.

Welcoming Prayer

Holy Spirit living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us as part of the St. Mark's family. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who worships with us feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let this community be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering Song: The Day of Resurrection! Vs 1 and 3

Hymnal 210

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:24

Confession of Sin

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

**Merciful and sustaining God,
we have sinned against you.**

**We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your
creation:**

teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

**We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of
life.**

**We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen
us in self-control.**

**We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for
granted: make us urgent now for its protection.**

**Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the
power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.**

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

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: O come let us worship. Alleluia.

Christ our Passover (Pascha nostrum) 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

The Readings

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalm 22:24-30

Read bolded verses responsively.

<p>24 A Dios le rindo alabanza en la asamblea;* entre los fieles cumpliré mis votos.</p> <p>25 El pobre comerá y será saciado y quienes buscan al Señor lo alabarán: * «¡Que viva siempre Dios!».</p> <p>26 Se volverán al Señor todos los cabos de la tierra * y toda familia ante él se inclinará.</p> <p>27 Porque el derecho de reinar es del Señor; * él gobierna sobre las naciones.</p> <p>28 Los que duermen en la tierra lo adoran; * los que descienden al polvo ante él se postran.</p> <p>29 Mi alma vivirá por él; * mi posteridad lo servirá; siempre al Señor le pertenecerán.</p> <p>30 Vendrán y anunciarán a un pueblo por nacer * las maravillas que ha hecho por salvarnos.</p>	<p>24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;* I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.</p> <p>25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!"</p> <p>26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.</p> <p>27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.</p> <p>28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.</p> <p>29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.</p> <p>30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.</p>
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A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

The Gospel Hymn

Alleluia Vs 1, 4, and 5

Renew 136

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I will praise him, Alleluia, I will praise him, Alleluia,
I will praise him, Alleluia, I will praise him, Alleluia!

Maranatha, Alleluia, Maranatha, Alleluia,
Maranatha, Alleluia, Maranatha, Alleluia!

The Gospel:

John 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Let us pray the way Jesus taught us in the language of our hearts:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People and grant us your salvation.

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People Let your people sing with joy.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in you can we live in safety.

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;

People Your saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;

Prayers of the People

*The response for each bidding is: **Hear our prayer.***

The Officiant adds a Collect.

The Peace

Officiant: Peace with yourself.
 Peace with Creation.
 Peace with one another.
 The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Sharing of the Peace

Announcements

For a Birthday

Watch over your child, O Lord, as his/her/their days increase; bless and guide him/her/them wherever he may be. Strengthen him/her/them when he/she/they stands; comfort him/her/them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him/her/them up if he/she/they fall; and in his/her/their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his/her/their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For an Anniversary

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Concluding Collects

Collect of the Day

Officiant: 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.**

A Collect for Peace

Officiant: O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People:

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

The Blessing

Officiant: May God who established the dance of creation,
 Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
 Who transforms chaos to order,
 Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
 To listen to the voice of all creatures
 That reflect God's glory in creation. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Lead On, O King Eternal Vs 1 and 3

Renew 298

Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning where e'er your face appears;
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest: lead on, O God of might.

Dismissal

Officiant: Our worship service this morning is coming to an end, our service to the world continues. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements

Welcome | Today we welcome Canon Jason Evans, the Canon for Mission for our Diocese of San Diego. Thank you for preaching and leading us in Morning Prayer. We are grateful for your time with us today. Jason will return next week to speak to us about Evangelism, which you won't want to miss!

ECS Gala Gift Basket | St. Mark's is supporting Episcopal Community Services Gala auction by assembling a "Spiritual Reflection" basket. Check the list for possible items to contribute. All donations are due May 13. Contact Debbie Kistler for questions or more information: dk.withgratitude@gmail.com

Backpack Registration Help Needed | Preparations have started for our annual Back To School Bash coming in August. Sign-ups for backpacks will take place in May at our food pantry. We need designated signup helpers on Wednesdays & Thursdays, 11am-1 pm. Can you help? Any help (including for just one day) is appreciated. Sign up after church today. Contact Debbie Kistler for questions or more information: dk.withgratitude@gmail.com

Choir Practice | Takes place this Tuesday, April 30 at 6 pm. If you can't make it to practice, and you're still interested in participating, please see Kirk about getting the score and/or music tracks.

Food Pantry | Our food pantry (which serves 175+ families per week) can always use your contributions. The need for rice, pasta, and oatmeal (all highly sought pantry staples) and other items is constant. Grocery bags & pet food are also needed. Please help and bring in what you can. Volunteer workers are also welcome. Joanna Smith and/or Lauren Button will be happy to give you more information.

First Sunday of the Month Social | Next week, May 5 is the first Sunday of the month: time for fellowship and goodies. We encourage you to bring some food to share and stay for fellowship and Canon Jason's talk about Evangelism: win, win, win!