



Welcome to ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

APRIL 24, 2022 AT 8:00 & 10:00 A.M.
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

+ --Appropriate place to make the "Sign of the cross"

BCP—The "Black" Book of Common Prayer

Hymnal—The "Red" Hymnal 1982

LEVAS—Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal (Episcopal)

WLP—Music from Wonder, Love, and Praise Hymnal (Episcopal)

VF—Music from Voices Found Hymnal (Episcopal)

Please silence your cell phone

Notes on Today's Readings:

Welcome to the St. Mark's Church. Today we begin the second of the seven weeks of our celebration of Christ's resurrection. This Sunday is always the time we hear the story of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on Easter Day and then again on the following Sunday when Thomas (who had been absent the previous week) refused to believe them unless he saw the Lord with his own eyes and touched the scars from his crucifixion. This account is packed with the signs of resurrection that still find expression in the liturgy and the life of the church. The Lord's greeting, "Peace be with you," is characteristic of most of his risen appearances. The gospel writers' care in noting that these appearances were on the first day of the week reflects the early Church's decision to move the day of worship to Sunday. Not only do the apostles see the risen Lord but also he gives the Holy Spirit to them, marking Sunday as the Spirit's day. Above all, he passes on to them the power he received from his Father: the authority to forgive sins. The other readings today are two different sorts of witness to the meaning of the resurrection: the first, from Acts, is Peter's sermon about the resurrection when he is on trial before the council after being arrested for the very same sort of preaching he does here. John's vision of the last days, in the Book of Revelation, begins with the salutation from the risen Lord who has made us his royal priesthood and the servants of God. Our celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death has only begun. Week after week, we will explore more deeply our new life as the baptized people of God. Week after week, the Lord will reveal himself to us in the breaking the bread.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

At the Lamb's high feast we sing

HYMN 174

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Celebrant + Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant and People

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.

(At 8:00 a.m.) 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.

PASCHA NOSTRUM — Christ our Passover (sung to tune *Sine Nomine* – “For all the saints”)

WLP 880

1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain;
 3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:

There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for -
 death has no more do - min - ion o - ver him; Through
 though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in

sak - ing sin, we share the bread of truth. Al -
 him we die to sin and live to God. Al -
 Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

THE COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Together, 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.

Acts 5:27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 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." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 150 *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!

THE EPISTLE

A reading from Revelation to St. John.

Revelations 1:4-8

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, 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 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. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people stand as they are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

We walk by faith and not by sight

HYMNAL 209

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

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

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

THE SERMON

+ May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

The people sit.

After the Sermon, the people stand as they are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing

*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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant:

Gathered with the living Christ among us, let us offer prayers to God for the needs of all the world, saying: *Alleluia! Hear our prayer.*

LEM:

For the Church, especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, GERALYN, Daniel, and William our Bishops, all the people and parishes of the Diocese of Long Island, and for Chris our Priest. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks this week for the Diocesan Altar Guild, Church of the Transfiguration, Freeport, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City, Christ Church, Garden City, St. Paul's, Glen Cove, All Saints', Great Neck, and the Staff & Board of Directors of the Mercer School. May signs and wonders born of faith and love may be worked among all peoples, through believers who bear testimony to Jesus. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For this parish family, that we may be transformed through our encounters with the living Christ, and be instruments of healing and forgiveness for those who are hurting. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who struggle with faith, or who lack belief, that God's presence and love may be made known to them, and bring light to their life's journey. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For a renewed stewardship of God's creation, that God will guide us to effectively care for creation, and preserve its beauty and resources for future generations. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For peace in all the troubled areas of the world, particularly in Ukraine, that Christ's victory over death may bring an end to war, genocide, and inhumane treatment of people. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, remembering especially those on our Prayer List. *(The people may add petitions for any need or concern.)* We pray that that they may find healing in the name of the Risen Christ. *Alleluia! Hear our prayer.*

For those who have died. *(The people may add petitions either silently or aloud)* Having acknowledged Jesus as their Lord and their God, may they rejoice forever with the Living One. *Alleluia! Hear our prayer.*

For all the blessings we have received. We give thanks this week for Lisa Canty, Joseph Martuscello, who are celebrating their birthdays and for John and Emily Andren who are celebrating the anniversary of their wedding. *Alleluia! Hear our prayer.*

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Victoria Garcia in memory of Joyce W. Barrie and by Catharine Nobiletti in loving memory of her brothers, Clarke & John.

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. *Alleluia! To you, O Risen Lord, we give praise and glory.*

All:
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who gives us the Easter word of peace through Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers which we offer in the hope of glory and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THE PEACE

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



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
 2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him - self to
 3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
 4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
 Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
 kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
 throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house res - ound a - gain; him let all your
 bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
 Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
 till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
 gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
 full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
 newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*(At 8:00 a.m.)**All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we given thee, Amen.*

(At 10:00 a.m.)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise
God, all crea-tures high and low. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
lu - ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre -
a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

*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.

SANCTUS

S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people remain standing

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.

Antiphon
Cantor, then all

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

Fine *Verses*

— of the bread. 1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

All repeat Antiphon

ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.
ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

Celebrant Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the grave. *Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN

We stand within the circle

VF 77

1 We stand with-in the cir - cle of Christ's e - ter - nal light.
2 We live by faith he gives us, our food the bread and wine.
3 We sing with shin - ing voic - es, made wor - thy by his light.

No more to walk in dark - ness, no more to live by sight.
And ev - er lift our prais - es be - yond life's earth - ly signs.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, Christ, morn - ing's star burns bright.

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Music: Carl Haywood © Carl Haywood. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER (*Church of England*)

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (*Church of England*)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

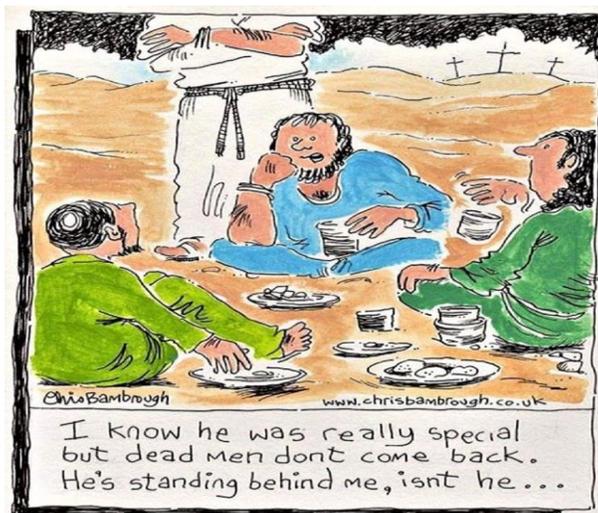
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

For a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on Lisa and Joseph as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Anniversary of a Marriage

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon John and Emily that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may be a witness to your love and forgiveness, and that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1 Je - sus lives! thy ter - rors now can no long - er, death, ap -
 2 Je - sus lives! for us he died; then, a - lone to Je - sus
 3 Je - sus lives! our hearts know well nought from us his love shall
 4 Je - sus lives! to him the throne o - ver all the world is

pall us; Je - sus lives! by this we know thou, O
 liv - ing, pure in heart may we a - bide, glo - ry
 sev - er; life, nor death, nor powers of hell tear us
 giv - en: may we go where he has gone, rest and

grave, canst not en - thrall us. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our Sa - vior giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from his keep - ing ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 reign with him in hea - ven. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant He is not here. He is risen.
 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday	(04/25)	Parish Office Closed
Tuesday	(04/26)	11:00 a.m. Funeral Service
Thursday	(04/28)	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Meditation Music 6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service in the Chapel
Sunday	(05/01)	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church 10:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

SERVING TODAY April 24, 2022

8:00 AM

Altar Guild:	Diane Stewart, Virginia Gilmore
LEM/Prayers:	Virginia Gilmore
Lector:	Tom Hadlock
Ushers:	Tom Simson

10:00 AM

Altar Guild:	Victoria Garcia, Lee Wadelton
LEM/Prayers:	Madeline Glover
Lector:	William Glover
Ushers:	Tom Horan, Kurt Hofmann

Coffee Hour: Laureen Andria-Melo, & Lawrence & Candace Andria.

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Victoria Garcia in memory of Joyce W. Barrie and by Catharine Nobiletti in loving memory of her brothers, Clarke & John.

Birthday Wishes to Lisa Canty, Joseph Martuscello

Anniversary Congratulations to John and Emily Andren

For those serving in the Armed Forces: Amanda E. Degener, Kyle M. Degener, George L. Degener, Jesse Fritz, Nicholas LoRusso, and Joshua Rudd.

We ask that you remember those for whom prayers are requested: Chris Allan, Jeff Blake, Darcy F. Chester, Fred Edwards, Anthony Graviano, Noel Hayes, Gretchen & Jim Jubinski, Greg Kulesa, Jim McDermott, Jock McLean, Sean McLean, Sudie Nostrand, Paul Oele, Joan Petrella, Betty-Rose & Stuart Richardson, Jean Scopinich, Jason Thomas, Sarah Witters, Bill Jones, and Fr. Ron Wickey.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hosts/Hostesses are needed for Coffee Hour following the 10 A.M. service on May 8, 15, 22 and 29. Please volunteer and add your name to the signup sheet on the table outside of the Parish Hall.

New Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. start on April 28th. Our focus will be the Acts of the Apostles.

Ways to Help the People of Ukraine... Please visit our website at www.stmarkswhb.org

Sunday School normally meets every Sunday, except the last Sunday of each month from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to dedicate flowers for the Altar contact Laura Bott at 631-722-4749 or email her at Laura.bott17@gmail.com. In May, there are two vases available for the 15th, and one vase for the 8th and 22nd. Each vase is \$40.

Anniversaries & Birthdays: We are updating our Anniversary and Birthday lists along with the names of those in need of healing prayers for the bulletin announcements. These names can be emailed to the church office at kate.gabrielsen@stmarkswhb.org.

Maureen's Haven "Thank you" for donations to Maureen's Haven. A box for donations, along with a list of suggested items such as individual containers of non-perishable food, is in the office lobby.

Last Week's Attendance:

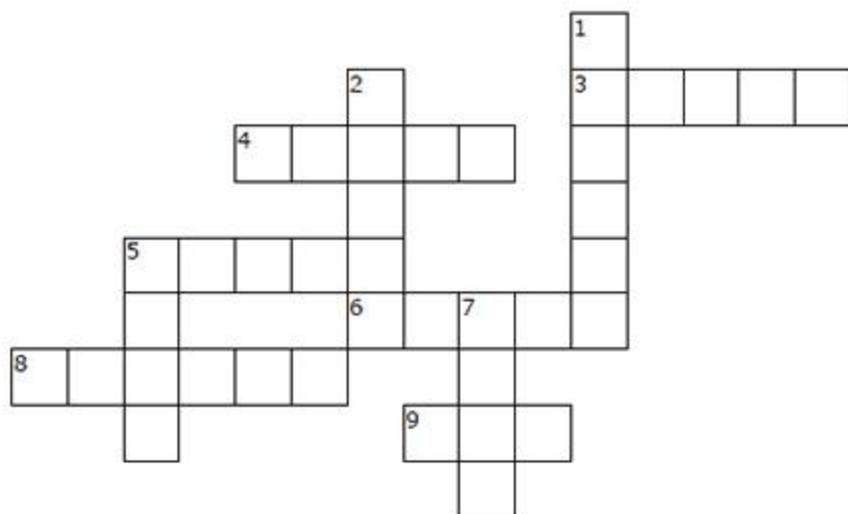
Saturday, April 16	6:00 p.m.	59	
Sunday, April 17	8:00 a.m.	26	
Sunday, April 17	10:00 a.m.	120	(plus 28 households viewed us online.)
	Total	146	

Pray for your parish family every day at 12:00 Noon
And Pray for the People in Ukraine!

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE
NAIL

DOOR
THOMAS

HANDS
CLOSED

FAITH
SIN

HAPPY
DOUBT



April 24, 2022 – Easter 2 (C)
Week 1: Reflections on the Resurrection

During the Easter season, Sermons That Work is pleased to present reflections from bishops of The Episcopal Church on the resurrection of our Lord. Check back each week for a brief exploration of how Jesus Christ's rising from the grave changes everything. To listen to this reflection, scan the QR code on this page and subscribe to the Sermons That Work podcast.

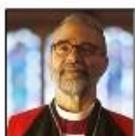
The Gospel for the Sunday after Easter tells us of Thomas who, famously, in his doubt, requires the certainty of touching His Lord's hands and side before he will believe. The Lord does not rebuke him, though He does bless the later followers ready to believe without this evidence. But at the hearing of His Lord's voice, Thomas, without touching, responds in faith: "My Lord and my God." This is a reflection on these themes.

In chapter 15 of his first letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul tells us that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then "we are of all people most to be pitied" (v. 19). Apparently Eastertide is joyful, but also risky! God Himself is clearly not risk averse: witness how He enlists Adam, Abraham, Mary, etc. in risky missions with varied results. Likewise the risen Jesus Christ calls us His people to a risky following. In this vein, great modern philosophers have compared the life of faith to a gamble (Pascal) or a leap (Kierkegaard).

On the other hand, we who are "wearied by the changes and chances" of this life (Book of Common Prayer) quite reasonably come to church to rest in something that can be counted on, that is certain. Isn't this what Jesus encourages us to do when he tells us to build our homes on rock and not sand (Matthew 7:24)? How do we balance the reality of risk and the longing for something certain? How can we conceive of this certainty that does not close off our minds and hearts?

In the thirteen century, Thomas Aquinas poses for himself this very question: is hope certain (Summa II/II, 18.4)? He answered "yes and no," which may seem the kind of answer that gave scholastics a bad name! But it is what he means by "yes and no" which is helpful to us. Do we have a certain hope in Christ? Thomas replies that, insofar as we are doing the hoping, it is most uncertain, like everything about us. But insofar as it is Christ in whom we hope, it is utterly certain. By "certain," he does not mean something that can be proved with a theorem, but rather he means that the One in whom we hope is trustworthy. "Certainty," like faith, has a "fiduciary" dimension.

At the heart of the Christian life is being summoned anew by the news of the resurrection of Jesus. It does not depend on us, as if faith were some problem solved in our heads (though God does call us to faithful thinking), nor an exertion of our will (though He would have us love Him with all our wills). Rather we are continually turned away from our untrustworthy selves to our trustworthy Lord. As a result, I am given the gift of an uncertain certainty, by which, on the disciples' path, beset by doubts, I am enabled to say, "My Lord and my God."



*This reflection, titled "Certain", was written by **the Rt. Rev. Dr. George Sumner**, Bishop of Dallas. He has served, among other places, in central Tanganyika, Navajoland in The Episcopal Church, and as principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto. He has written a book on the relation of Christianity to other religions, a book on the theology of ordination, and a commentary on Daniel from a missiological perspective.*



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

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Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Livestreamed)

Thursday Midweek Service

6:30 PM in the Chapel

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano—*Bishop of Long Island*

The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf—*Assisting Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. William Franklin—*Assisting Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey—*Assisting Bishop*

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