



Community of St. Bridget
an inclusive catholic experience

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025

Liturgy of the Resurrection

Liturgist: Mary Eileen Collingwood

Presider/Homilist: Donna Nagel



Our Daily Bread

Suggestion: Please have a copy of the written liturgy on hand, a piece of bread and cup of wine/grape juice, and a small vessel of water so you can participate fully in this liturgy.

All are welcome to come into this space which we make special by our presence. Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, the compassionate is expected. Together we make it a holy place with our every act of celebration.

ALL: Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life, *ALLELUIA!*

Lighting of the Easter Candle

From the fire of the Easter Vigil celebrated throughout the world, to the St. Bridget flame from Ireland, we light the fire of God's desire as prophets of a new vision of hospitality to welcome all to the Banquet Table of Infinite Love, as we dance the dance of Spirit embracing all.

Opening Song: ***Morning Has Broken*** sung by Cat Stevens; Writer: Eleanor Farjeon;
© 1987 GIA Publications

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOTInLOJuUM> (lyric/video)

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play.
Praise with elation, praise every morning:
God's Re-creation of the new day. *(Repeat first verse)*

It is a new dawning indeed! Today we celebrate the highest of Holy Days: The Resurrection of Jesus. We raise our Alleluia voices loud and clear as we join Jesus with resurrected hearts. And we begin in the name of our Sacred Essence: Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and +Holy Wisdom-Sophia. Amen.

Affirmation of Baptism

In this Easter Season, we celebrate and reaffirm the Christian initiation of our Baptism with the signing of baptismal waters-- reminding and reaffirming our commitment to the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we come together today to celebrate Eucharist, we will affirm this initiation each and every time we break bread together this Eastertime.

All present are asked to bless themselves with the sacred water from our Earth, and sing:

Cantor: We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully!
We shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of God's mercy!

God has untied the knots that bind us, and through this life-giving water and living Spirit among us, brought us to life anew. May this spirit-filled grace renew us as we embrace the promise of eternal life in God's Presence. Amen.

Gloria: **Praise, Give Glory to God** by Denise Pyles on *Creation of Love*, © 2010-0319.
<https://youtu.be/tA22QokvwPA> (no video; begin at 0:20)

Praise, praise, give glory to God! Nations, peoples, give glory!
Strong the love embracing us, faithful our God forever.
Alleluia, alleluia! (x3)

Opening Prayer

1. O Holy One, it is good news indeed that there is no hiding from the Risen One. He comes to us breathing the Spirit into our unbelieving hearts and offering us a peace which surpasses all understanding:
2. ...the peace of renewed purpose, of a blessed unrest, of realizing that the Easter story is about our own resurrection after all, and that there is work to be done:

ALL: ...proclaiming God's love, healing the brokenhearted, speaking out for creation, and above all, opening to the evolving push and pull of Spirit's call. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD*

Our Living Spirit rejoices as these words of Scripture are broken open and shared by all.

First Reading: Revelation 1:8; 22:13, 16-17

A reading from Book of Revelation:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says God. "The one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

"I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David and Bathsheba, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Beloved say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts, come! And come, the one who wants to receive the gift of life-giving water.

The inspired words of an Early Church Visionary. Amen. **(pause for reflection)**

Responsorial: Psalm 118

This is the Day, by Kathy Sherman; Album: I Lift Up My Soul © 2014 Ministry of the Arts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndD55kFooFg> **(no video)**

Response: ***This is the day that Our God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!*** (x2)

Give thanks to God for God is good, whose mercy endures forever.

Let all creation say: God's mercy endures forever! **R**

God's right hand has struck with power; God's right hand is exalted.
I shall not die but live, declaring your works, O God! **R**

The stone which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone.
By our God has this been known; it is wonderful in our eyes! **R**

Cantor: Celtic Alleluia

Second Reading - Gospel: John 20: 1, 11-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

Early in the morning, on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. Mary stood, crying, outside the tomb.

While weeping, she stooped down and saw two angels inside. They were dressed in white and were sitting, one at the head and one at the feet of where Jesus' body had lain. The angels asked Mary, "Why are you weeping?" She answered, "They have taken away my Teacher, and I don't know where they have put him."

As soon as Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. She did not recognize him. Jesus asked her, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Thinking Jesus was the gardener, Mary said, "Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him." Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned. She said to him, "Rabboni" -- which means "Teacher."

Jesus then told her, "Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Beloved. But tell my other disciples that I am going to my Beloved and your Beloved, my God and your God." Mary then went to the disciples with the message, "I have seen the Teacher!" And she told them what he had said to her.

The inspired words of the evangelist, John. Amen.

Cantor: Celtic Alleluia **(pause for reflection)**

Third Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians:

Christ is risen! And you have been raised with Christ! Since resurrection is already yours, let cosmic mysteries fill your hearts with ecstasy. Wonder at earth's precious and finite place in the cosmos. Set your mind on virtues that endure.

Jesus died. You also will die. You have already known death and loss. In baptism, you died with Jesus the Christ. Trust that your cosmic life, like Jesus' is already real. It may be hidden in God, nestled in God's womb; but, when the Cosmic Christ is revealed in fullness, you also will be birthed into wholeness.

The inspired words of attributed to the apostle, Paul. Amen.

Homily: Donna Nagel

Easter is the celebration of our hope fulfilled. We now know that the promises made by Jesus weren't political rhetoric to encourage people to follow him. No, Easter is the embodiment of the mission he preached coming to fulfillment.

The words and actions of Jesus' life were not empty promises, rather they were grounded in reality. Jesus promised life eternal and that is exactly what we will receive as confirmed by his resurrection. His ministry to the poor and disenfranchised led the way for his hearers to begin thinking about and slowly creating the kingdom of God in this time and space. Jesus' mission to establish an egalitarian community will see its final fulfillment at the end of time.

We know that our hope for a just and peaceful world has not yet become reality. And as we do our part to bring about the kingdom of God for all people regardless of who they are we experience hardships, disappointments as well as successes along the way. May it comfort us to know that our situation is not unique. His disciples quickly ran for safety when Jesus was arrested, falsely accused of insurrection, and put to death for his words and actions. The disciples were devastated by the death of Jesus after he had made inroads into the community encouraging them to work together and respect the needs of one another. Nevertheless, locked in the upper room, they held on to the hope that the promises Jesus made to them would somehow someday be realized. And their hope and ours is confirmed today when Jesus was raised from the dead.

It is our turn now to continue to live each day working for and hoping to achieve justice and peace in our world for all creation. May our Easter celebration remind us that Jesus has fulfilled that hope. This is our true cause for celebration because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!" (Heb13:8) *Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us, we now renew our baptismal promises:

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Freed from knots that bind us and brought to new life through the living water of Jesus' life and ministry and the presence of the Holy Spirit, let us renew the promises that brought us to this point in our lives. By living these promises may we all rejoice in the Eternal Presence of God and one another.

3. We promise to see what is good for our sisters and brothers everywhere, rejecting injustice and inequality, and living with the freedom and responsibility of the family of God.
4. We promise to work for the realization of God's vision of harmony and right relations among people, rejecting the idols of money, property, race, gender, and position.
5. We promise to seek peace and live in peace in one human family, rejecting prejudice in every form, and all barriers to unity.
6. We promise to cherish the universe and this precious planet, working creatively to renew and safeguard the elemental sacraments of air, earth, and water.
7. We believe in God, the Creator, in Jesus, the teacher of justice and love who lived among us so that all might live with abundant fullness;
1. We believe in the Spirit, the breath of God, who continues the work of birthing and blessing, of forgiveness and reconciliation, of challenge and hope, so that together we all can continue the work of creation.

ALL: God has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and has broken the chains of the burdens we carry. May God also keep us faithful to Jesus the Christ now and always. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

2. Ever present Creator: Life-giving Word: Ruah, Breath of Life, we stand present at our Tables holding our blessings, cares and concerns.

We ask that your healing power become a cleansing balm upon the Spirit within us, our families, our countries, our leaders and our world. After each request, we respond:

Risen Jesus, we awaken to your call!

For whom and for what shall we pray?

All knowing and ever living Source of Light, we give back to you what you have so graciously given to each of us. We trust that by breaking open our hearts, our lives will bear fruit. We hope that by following Jesus' lead, we will fall in love with the Spirit that dwells within us and thereby love all who we touch. Seed of Compassion, hold these prayers, and the prayers hidden deep within our hearts not yet ready to surface, within your ever-loving embrace. Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sign of Peace

As we prepare for the sacred meal, we reaffirm that just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our risen brother, Jesus, offers be always with us! Amen.

Offertory (All raise the bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the Earth's fruits.

ALL: O Gracious One, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from your church gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us.

- 3.** Holy Mystery, may our strength be renewed by your generous blessings that will bring us health of mind and body. Grant that the healing work which you have begun in the life, death, and rising again of Jesus, bring us to eternal life in Your Presence. We ask this through Jesus, our brother. Amen.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

- 4.** Giving thanks to the Source of All Life, we open our hearts in the name of Jesus, who lives and loves, heals and empowers through us.
- 5.** We praise you, O God of wonder and life, with greater joy than ever during this Easter Season, as we celebrate Jesus' life and ministry as witness to the life of compassion and love we are all called to live. As the universe resounds with Easter joy, we lift up our hearts with the choirs of angels and sing this endless hymn of your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy by Christopher Grundy on *Stepping In* © 2012.

<https://youtu.be/GUm2bEGB2dU> (no video)

Holy, holy, holy God of love and justice
The whole universe and everything beyond it,
Every galaxy and flower,
Every singing bird and falling drop of rain
Is ablaze
With your glory, glory, glory!
O, God most wonderful.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name!
Hosannah! Hosannah!

6. Loving Creator, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.

7. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of this Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.

ALL: Generous Gifter of Life, make us ever more aware of the presence of Your Spirit in these, our gifts, as we celebrate the +transformative energy within this bread and fruit of the vine given to nurture afresh in us, the discerning gifts of wisdom, light, and truth.

1. As a Christian people we celebrate the Open Table, proclaimed by Jesus our liberator and our friend, a Table of abundant life, inclusive love, and liberation, where all are welcome, and from which no one is to be excluded.

On the night before he died, Jesus did more than ask us to remember him. He showed us how to live when he washed the feet of his friends. At the Table, he took the Passover Bread, spoke the grace, broke the bread and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

ALL: *Take and eat, all of you. This is my very Self, the Bread of Life given to strengthen you.* **(pause)**

Jesus then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

ALL: *Take and drink of this cup, the life force of the new and everlasting Covenant. It is poured out for you and for all, so that you might be free. Whenever you re-member me like this, I am among you. (pause)*

We raise our voices to the sacred presence of our Loving God:

ALL: In every creature that has ever breathed, *Christ has lived;*
In every living being that has passed on before us, *Christ is transformed;*
In our breaking open the word and the bread, *Christ is with us still!*
In everything yet to be, *Christ will come again.*

(All raise bread and cup)

ALL: For it is through learning to live as Jesus lived,
And why he lived,
And for whom he lived,
That we awaken to your Spirit within,
Moving us to worship you truly,
Life-giving God,
At this time and all time and in all ways. **Cantor:** Amen!

We pray as these gifts are shared among us:

- 2.** Loving Teacher, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.
We will live justly.
- 3.** Loving Companion, you call us to be your presence in the world.
We will love tenderly.
- 4.** Loving Prophet, you call us to speak truth to power.
We will walk with integrity in your abiding presence.

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished, and we nourish one another.

ALL: We share this bread and cup today committing ourselves to be Easter people, people who see beyond the barriers, the pain, the darkness and hard times, people who live in faith, hope and love in all the seasons of our lives whatever the ups and downs.

All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!

Communion Meditation: ***Ruah, Breath of Life/Jesus, Bread of Life***

words by Jann Aldredge-Clanton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB9EgGQC6uM&list=UUSs6m1sKuUt5xtA81WDQSQ&index=25> (lyric/video- begin at .57)

Refrain: Ruah, Breath of Life, breathe in us.
Jesus, Bread of Life, give us strength.

Ruah, Breath of Life, breathe in us, we pray, that we
may spread goodness to all people on Earth.
Spirit, wind of change, bring a peaceful day, and we will
join you, bringing life to birth. **R**

Jesus, Bread of Life, give us strength we pray,
that we may help others who are hungry and poor.
Fill us with your grace; show us all the way to
share your Table and your Open Door. **R**

Ruah, Breath of Life, Jesus, Bread of Life, come
strengthen and breathe in us, we pray.

We pray to God as Jesus did: (An adaptation for our times by Lenora Rand)

5. God of Love, who we experience as mother, father, friend, lover, our
deepest longing, our best thought, our solid ground, the sacred soil from
which everything grows, our greatest hope.
6. Your love covers the entire Earth, holding us all in your embrace.
You hold everything together.
We want to know what your vision for the world is - help us.
We want to live in that vision - guide us.
7. Everything we eat and drink,
everything that gives us life and joy,
it all comes from you.
We want to thank you for your mercy. You hold nothing back.
Help us be that open and generous with others and with ourselves.
Help us forgive each other.
1. Deep in our hearts we believe that this is your
world and that you love us all.
Help us live with you and with each other

in that powerful love.

And together we will sing of your mercy and grace and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

2. O Risen One, breathe on us, set us on fire and send us out, that we might rise from our graves of fear and go forth boldly as your Easter people.
3. May our faith be not in our words but in our lives, not in what we say but in who we are, passing on your love like an infectious laugh:

ALL: ...not worried, not threatening, just shining like the sun, like a starry night, like a lamp on a stand, a light for life. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing: Our Risen Christ is in, through and among us!

ALL: *Alleluia!*

Please extend hands to one another for our mutual blessing:

4. Our Loving God blesses us on this Easter Sunday! We courageously vow to live the blessing and example Jesus gave through his willingness to share with us his life and love. Amen.
5. Through Jesus' life and ministry, wholeness has been restored. We rejoice in knowing that God fulfills the promises made to us, and are blessed with the abiding Presence of Love forever. Amen.
6. As we celebrate the joy of Jesus' risen life,
May we come with joy to the feast that will never end. Amen.

We go into this week, held together by the Source of All That Is, clothed in the nature of Jesus our Companion, and reinforced by the strength of the +Spirit within us. Amen.

(chanted) Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia!

Cantor: *(chanted)* Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

Closing Hymn: ***Hallelujah is Our Song*** by Sarah Hart; © 2012, Meaux Jeux Music, Tunes From The Basement, River Oaks Music Company, Published by Spirit & Song®, a division of OCP. Used with permission. Video © 2022, OCP.

<https://youtu.be/bbgryIGz3YQ?si=DkrkLn8HM2jW2Lm9>
(lyric/video; fade out after 2:35)

What hope we have even in the longest night
for the light will overcome
we will not fear for we know the sun will rise
Hallelujah is our song

What peace we have even in this wounded world
Where the battle rages on
We will not fear for we know who heals our souls
Hallelujah is our song

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! He is risen over all
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah is our song

What joy we have for the stone is rolled away
And the tomb holds nothing now
No sting of death, no power over sin or grave
Hallelujah is our song. **R**

***Thank you for your courage to worship in a spirit of equality and justice at this
Easter Sunday celebration.***

***You are welcome to join us again and support this Community with your
presence and prayer.***

*Today's Scripture readings are taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary made available through the Women's Ordination Conference.