

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

All are welcome. All are embraced. All are loved.



April 21, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeborough
neighborhood of Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, Junior Warden



Celebrate
50 Days
of Easter

Hallelujah!



Welcome to Eastertide
Easter Sunday is only a beginning!

The Great Fifty Days of Easter, also referred to as the season of Eastertide, is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost.

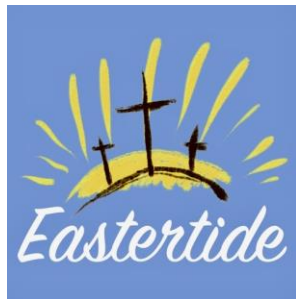
Although many people are familiar with Easter Day when the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, you may not know that it always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. This was determined in 325CE at the Council of Nicaea in attempt to have all Christians celebrate on the same day with limited success, since Orthodox Christians use a different calendar. Eastertide is a season that actually lasts 50 days.

Why 50 days? It's actually quite simple. After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, which is commemorated on Ascension Day, May 9 this year. Then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost, or *Whitsunday*, which is celebrated on May 19 this year.

Luke writes in the first chapter of the Book of Acts that Jesus "presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." In chapter two, we hear the followers of Jesus gathered for the Day of Pentecost, which actually means "fifty." It happened during the Hebrew feast of *Shavuot*, which is why the followers of Jesus were gathering. The Hebrew festival was originally a harvest first fruits celebration and later it evolved into a commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

These Great Fifty Days are a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost. During this time, Episcopalians once again use the word *alleluia*, which they refrain from using during the penitential season of Lent and the confession is omitted from the liturgy. So, for the next few weeks, the priest will still exclaim "*Alleluia. Christ is Risen*" on Sunday mornings, to which the people will reply, "*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*" The Paschal Candle is lit on Easter and on Sundays during Eastertide which symbolizes the risen Christ. Paschal means "related to Easter or Passover," which is why Eastertide is sometimes called Paschaltide and Jesus is sometimes called the "Paschal Lamb." The church also uses white (and sometimes gold) vestments, which is the color designated for feasts and festivals. Eastertide ends on the Day of Pentecost, which commemorates the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. Interestingly, word Pentecost means "fiftieth day" in Greek.

Easter and Eastertide are the high point of our Church year, so it makes sense we should celebrate for a prolonged period of time. After all, the main point of the whole gospel is to prepare us for an eternal feast!



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

Opening Proclamation

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

INTROIT

God Beyond Knowledge

Slane

OPENING HYMN

I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord

Hymnal 304

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant says.

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.**

The following is sung, all standing.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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.*

SECOND READING: 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymnal 645

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

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

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."

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

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be with you."

SONG Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place *Sung by all.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Priest offers an Offertory Sentence.

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Carlton T. Russell

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Sung to the tune of Hymnal #400

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also 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 God thanks and praise.***

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

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:

Sanctus S 128
Celebrant and People

Schubert



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant sing

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: Taste and see
Copyright: Onelicense.net #A-609900.

WLAP # 764

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Fine

INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.

Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, so that you may receive by intinction. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you at the altar rail. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Break Thou the Bread of Life
Come, ye Disconsolate

LEVAS 146
LEVAS 147

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Hymnal 664

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Christ.

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

CLOSING HYMN

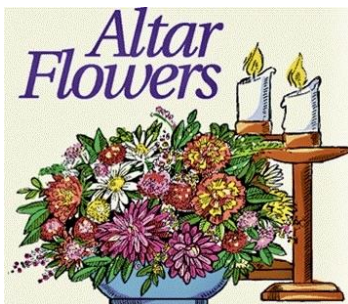
Thank You, Lord

Sung by all

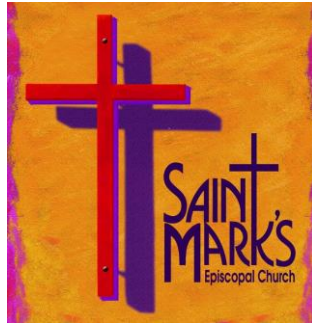
*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

POSTLUDE

The worship is over. Now the service begins.



*The Flowers are given by Monica Hammonds
In memory of Reginald Johnson*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*
Sharon Crossley, *Eucharistic Minister*
Taylor Chase, *Acolyte*
Lisa Van Bergen, *Lector*
Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Jean Turner, Angela Hare, Kristin Wallace & Jacqueline Storts, *Altar Guild*
Vicki Williams & Ginny Grayson, *Ushers*

Announcements



Next Sunday, April 28 – 12:30 to 3:30 PM
St. Mark's is hosting – We need your help!

**ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

16 Thomas St. 843-722-0267

Organized on Easter Day 1865 by free black Episcopalians who had nowhere to worship, St. Mark's now has a diverse membership. But in honor of its founders, and its members who are descended from them, St. Mark's is serving pilau and collard greens.

Bonus: The church will offer sanctuary tours during the event.



Mark your calendars now. Show up and *Witness!*

We recognize seven principal feasts in the Episcopal Church each year, and our next is the Feast of Pentecost, which will be celebrated Sunday, May 19, 2024. We will celebrate by again welcoming into our beloved community yet another child of God by baptism during our 10 AM worship service.

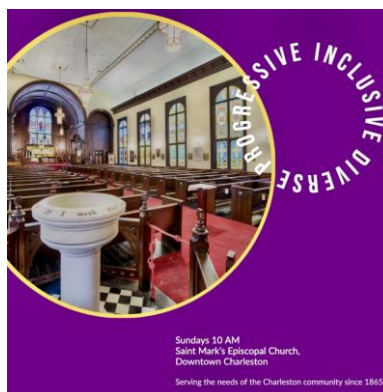
Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the “birthday of the church”, as it is often understood that Jesus “completed” his work with his disciples by sending the Holy Spirit, and now it was their job to continue that work, empowered by the Spirit. In any case, it truly is a day to see that God had empowered the disciples – just as God continues to empower us today – to carry forward the message of God’s redeeming love to a world so desperately in need of receiving those healing words.

Following our worship service on Pentecost Sunday, we’ll be hosting an old fashion picnic on our front porch and lawn, sharing hot dogs, chips and the like, in fellowship with each other. And, we’re going to invite our neighbors in the Radcliffeborough neighborhood to join us, just like we did to our February Oyster Roast. So please plan now to show up and witness not only during our worship service on May 19, but plan to stay for the party afterwards. Invite a friend. *We’re having a party!*

Altar Flower Donations – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

Free parking is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark’s Church.

Parish Office Hours are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.



Welcome to St. Mark's



I'm so glad you are here.

Whether you are visiting Charleston for the first time, have recently moved here, have visited our church before or are doing so for the first time, we hope you will consider making St. Mark's Episcopal Church your spiritual home. Whoever you are and wherever you are in your life journey, we invite you to join our community effort in making the world a better place to live. There are no litmus tests. We don't want to change you. We want to support you as you grow into the person you were born to be.

In the Episcopal Church, we dream and work to foster God's vision of *Beloved Community* where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. *Beloved Community* stands on the foundation of recognizing that any person's fundamental identity is God's beloved child. Such innate belovedness compels us to treat every single person on this planet with respect and dignity and to work for justice and peace and end our participation, knowingly or unknowingly, in assumptions or systems which trample on the beloved identity of our neighbors.

We humans cannot exist in isolation. We depend on connection, community, and caring. Simply put, we cannot be without each other. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu explained, "*My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.*" Tutu understood that the potential of human beings working collectively to achieve goals is infinitely greater than the potential of any individual.

We are a community of believers who come to worship, to pray, to love and to be loved, as we work to ease the burdens we share, living in the twenty-first century. We not only welcome but *embrace* a diverse community of people with different ethnic, racial, sexual orientation and social backgrounds, who may have different ways of being their authentic selves in the world. Our focus is to live into right relationship with each other and all creation as followers of Jesus. We are strengthened by our diversity, as we strive for unity, not uniformity.

So, I invite you to join us. Bring your gifts and passions, along with your doubts and your curiosity, but most of all, your hearts and minds. There is a place for everyone in God's church, and we may be the place where you can flourish, just as you are, *God's beloved child*.

Gratefully,
Michael Shaffer +
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frmichael@saintmarkschurch.com
Cell: 843-830-1220
St. Mark's Parish Office: 843-722-0267