

*Grace Episcopal Church  
401 Pendleton Street  
Waycross, Georgia 31501*



**Morning Prayer  
The Sundays of Easter**

May 10, 2020

*The Right Rev. Scott Benhase,  
10th Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia*

*The Rev. Kit Brinson, Rector  
Mike Taylor, Church Musician and Choir Director*

**The Hymn**      *O Love of God, how strong and true*    **H 455**

**The Invitatory**

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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.**

*Officiant: Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:*

**People: Come let us adore him.**

**Christ our Passover** *(Said in unison)*

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \***

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

**Not with 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 in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

**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.**

### **A Reading from Acts (7:55-60)**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

**In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \* deliver me in your righteousness.**

**Incline your ear to me; \* make haste to deliver me.**

**Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \* for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \* for you are my tower of strength.**

**Into your hands I commend my spirit, \* for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.**

**My times are in your hand; \* rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

**Make your face to shine upon your servant, \* and in your loving-kindness save me."**

**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.**

### **A Reading from First Peter (2:2-10)**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual

house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.      The Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God**

### **The First Song of Isaiah    (*Sung*)**

**Surely, it is God who saves me; \***      (*chorus*)  
**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**  
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \***  
**and he will be my Savior.**  
**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \***  
**from the springs of salvation.**  
**And on that day you shall say, \***  
**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;    (*chorus*)**  
**Make his deeds known among the peoples; \***  
**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**  
**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \***  
**and this is known in all the world.      (*chorus*)**  
**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \***  
**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**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.**

### **A Reading from the Gospel of John (14:1-14)**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go

and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”      The Lord of the Lord...**Thanks be to God**

**The Homily**      Rev. Kit Brinson

**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.**

**The Prayers**

*Officiant*    The Lord be with you. ***People***      **And also with you.**

*Officiant*    Let us pray.

**Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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 Suffrages - A**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord; **R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness; **R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care; **R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth; **R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten; **R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God; **R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

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 the Church**

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Grace**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "**Lord, have mercy.**"

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, and Bishop Elect, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are affected by the corona virus and all who care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Madelyn, Dan, Johnny, Gloria, Tasha, Joey, Keith, Chandler, Donna, Mitch, Jeanette, Una, Steven, Linda, Marcia, Larry, Alyssa, Jim, Tina, Greg, Denny, Carol, Vicky, Tristan, Rachel, Freddy, James and family, Tifani and Leland,

Faye, Jerry, Jackie, Teresa, Shaun, Norene, Sandra, C.J., Andrea, Lonnie, Allen, Michelle, Sam, Frances, Bill, David, Jean, Zachary, Judy, Diane, Lauren, Barb, and Shary, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Lindsay, Joe, John, Beth, Linda, Guy, Janiece, Bobbie, Maurice, and Pat, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

### **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 ourselves 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.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Blessing and Dismissal .....Thanks be to God.**

**The Closing Hymn**      *When we all get to heaven*      **LEVAS 20**