Prelude

Hymn 193 “That Easter Day”
1. That Easter day with joy was bright: 
   the sun shone out with fairer light 
   when to their longing eyes restored, 
th’apostles saw their risen Lord.
2. His risen flesh with radiance glowed, 
his wounded hands and feet he showed; 
those scars their solemn witness gave 
that Christ was risen from the grave.
3. O Jesus, King of gentleness, 
do thou thyself our hearts possess, 
that we may give thee all our days 
the willing tribute of our praise.
4. O Lord of all, with us abide 
in this, our joyful Easter-tide; 
from ev’ry weapon death can wield 
thine own redeemed forever shield.

Officiant: If then you have been raised with 
Christ, seek the things that are above, where 
Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 
Colossians 3:1

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

Officiant Lord, open our lips. [page 80]

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.

Canticle: Pascha Nostrum spoken [page 83]

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 Psalter: Psalm 16 read in unison [page 599]
1. Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; * 
   I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, 
   my good above all other.”
2. All my delight is upon the godly 
   that are in the land, * 
   upon those who are noble among the people.
3. But those who run after other gods * 
   shall have their troubles multiplied.
4. Their libations of blood I will not offer, * 
   nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
5. O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; * 
   it is you who uphold my lot.
6. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * 
   indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
7. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; * 
   my heart teaches me, night after night.
8. I have set the Lord always before me; * 
   because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9. My heart, therefore, is glad,
and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

10. For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11. You will show me the path of  life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures
for evermore.

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.

First Lesson  Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A Reading from the Acts of  the Apostles.  Peter,
standing with the eleven, raised his voice and
addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites,
listen to what I have to say: Jesus of  Nazareth,
a man attested to you by God with deeds of
power, wonders, and signs that God did
through him among you, as you yourselves
know— this man, handed over to you
according to the definite plan and
foreknowledge of  God, you crucified and
killed by the hands of  those outside the law.
But God raised him up, having freed him from
death, because it was impossible for him to be
held in its power. For David says concerning
him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he
is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue
rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or
let your Holy One experience corruption.’
This Jesus God raised up, and of
that all of  us are witnesses.”  The Word of  the
Lord. [Thanks be to God.]

Canticle:  First Song of  Isaiah  spoken

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
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;
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.
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.

Second Lesson  John 20:19-31

A Reading from the Gospel of  John.  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. The Word of the Lord. [Thanks be to God.]

Canticle: Song of the Redeemed spoken

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,*
O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the holy One.
All nations will draw near and
fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works
have been revealed.
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.

Homily

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Leader: In you, Lord, is our hope;  
People: And we shall never hope in vain.

The Officiant then offers the Collects (prayers), beginning with the Collect of the Day.

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.

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, especially those afflicted by the coronavirus, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that all those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Hymn 182 “Christ is Alive!”

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
   His cross stands empty to the sky.
   Let streets and homes with praises ring.
   His love in death shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now and conquer every place and time.

3. Not throned above, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior with the Father reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive! His Spirit burns through this and every future age, till all creation lives and learns his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

Intercessions and thanksgivings follow, concluded by all joining in The General Thanksgiving:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, bless all who long for the sacrament healing this day. May our heavenly Father grant you the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. Of God’s great mercy, may your sins be forgiven, may you be relieved from suffering and restored to wholeness and strength. May God deliver you from all evil, preserve you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Together, let us pray the General Thanksgiving

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.

Officiant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

Hymn 212 “Awake, Arise, Lift Up Your Voice”

1. Awake, arise, lift up your voice,
   let Easter music swell;
   rejoice in Christ, again rejoice,
   and on his praises dwell.

2. Oh, with what gladness and surprise
   the saints their Savior greet;
   nor will they trust their ears and eyes
   but by his hands and feet,

3. those hands of liberal love indeed
   in infinite degree,
   those feet still free to move and bleed
   for millions and for me.

4. His enemies had sealed the stone
   as Pilate gave them leave,
   lest dead and friendless and alone
   he should their skill deceive.

5. O Dead arise! O Friendless stand
   by seraphim adored!

O Solitude again command
your host from heaven restored!

Postlude

On Sundays our custom is to receive the gifts of the people for the support of the church and its mission in the world. Please mail your gifts to *The Church of the Messiah, P. O. Box 70367, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.*

It is customary to omit the Confession in order to emphasize the joy of the Easter season. The praise-shout of Alleluia is added to our liturgy during these Fifty Days.

We have established a telephone Care Team to check in with parishioners. We also have a crew which will run errands for anyone for whom such a service is needed. To be on the call list, please speak to Judy Milone or the Vicar. To request an errand, speak with the Vicar.

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*When we are unable to receive the Bread and Wine of the Holy Sacrament because of extreme sickness, physical disability, or, as in our present cause, the suspension of public worship to prevent the spread of infection, we can be assured that all the benefits of Communion are received. The following prayer may be said.*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to God, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your abiding love. *Amen.*

*A fuller expression of Spiritual Communion may be found at www.messiahmb.org under the “Library” tab.*