**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 21, 2024**

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**Morning Prayer, Rite II, 10:00 AM**

**The Church of The Holy Comforter**

2911 Woodley Road, Montgomery, AL 36111 • (334) 281-1337

The Rev. Lee Wilkins, Deacon, The Rev. Rosa Lindahl, Rector,

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Glenda Curry, Bishop

**Hymnal Prayer Book**

**Opening Sentence BCP 78**

**Confession of Sin** *(sit or kneel as you are comfortable)*  **BCP 79**

**Officiant:** Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

*All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,*

*By what we have done and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.*

**Officiant:** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life*. Amen.*

**The Invitatory and Psalter BCP 80 - 84**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Officiant and People*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as*

*it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

*Alleluia.*

**Venite** *(all, Spoken)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*
    and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*
    and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*
    and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, \*
    and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*
    Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Psalm 23** *(read in unison)*

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. *Amen*

**The Lessons**

### First Lesson: 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."

### *Lector* The Word of the Lord

*All* Thanks be to God

**Canticle 8** *(p. 85, all, spoken)* The Song of Moses “*Cantemus Domino”*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*
    the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*
    the Lord has become my Savior.
This is my God and I will praise him, \*
    the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*
    Yahweh is his Name.
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*
    the finest of those who bear armor have been
                             drowned in the Red Sea.
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*
    they sank into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*
    your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*
    who is like you, glorious in holiness,
    awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?
You stretched forth your right hand; \*
    the earth swallowed them up.
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*
    with your might you brought them in safety to
                             your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them \*
    on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*
    the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign \*
    for ever and for ever.

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: 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.

***Lector The Word of the Lord***

*All Thanks be to God*

**Canticle 18:** *(p.93,all, spoken)* A Song to the Lamb  “*Dignus es*”

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*
    are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, \*
    and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*
    for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*
    a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*
    and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*
    for ever and for evermore.

### Gospel: John 10:11-18

### 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.”

### *Officiant* The Gospel of the Lord

*All* Thanks be to God

**Homily**                     **The Rev Lee Wilkins**

**The Apostles’ Creed BCP 96**

*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.*

**Salutation                                                                                                          BCP 97**

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**The Lord’s Prayer                                                                                             BCP 97**

*Officiant and People*

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.*

**Suffrages A                                                                                                     BCP 98**

**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.

**Collects                                                                                                             BCP 98-100**

*The Officiant then says the following Collects*

*The Collect of the Day*

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.*

*A Collect for Sundays*

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.*

*Collect for the Renewal of Life*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the
night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive
far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your
law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having
done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may,
when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen

**Officiant:**O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the
earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those
who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people
everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the
nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh;
and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Doxology Hymn 380** *(spoken by all)*   “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”   *Old 100th*

**Prayers BCP 101-102**

***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 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.*

***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.*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Conclusion**                                                                                                       **BCP 102**

*Officiant then concludes:*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely

More than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from

Generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus

for ever and ever*. Amen.*

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Randy Foster*

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*Holy Comforter Choir*

*Dennis Endicott, John Harrell, Mary Lois Monroe, Michael Paul, Roy Paul, Jeri Tippit*

*Vestry*

*Kathy Albree, Randy Bryan, John Harrell, Jeri Tippit, Hannah Williams*

*Senior Warden: Rand Neeley Junior Warden: Paul Hard*

*Treasurer: Mary Lois Monroe Clerk: Jan Pope*

*Hybrid Ministry*

*Michael Paul, Randy Woodland*

*Ushers*

*Joe Albree, Roger Brewer, Lyn Frazer, Scott Lollar, Nelya McKenzie, Rand Neeley, Terry Seanor, Mark Semler*

*Head Usher: Alden Monroe*

*Altar Guild*

*Leanne Barber, Libby Bryan, Dorothy Gidiere, Melanie Kelley, Carol Kendrick, Rose Lollar,*

*Ann Montgomery, Dabney McKenzie, Mary Lois Monroe, Zola Powers, Julie Speaks, Jeri Tippit*

*Flower Guild*

*Kathy Albree, Roy Paul, Joy Patterson, Zola Powers, Ami Simpson, Jeri Tippit*

*Holy Comforter Staff*

*Parish Life Coordinator: Terri Via Parish Media: Missy Via*

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