

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE REGINA COELI

During Eastertide, the Regina Coeli replaces the Angelus as the prayer rung on the church bells before worship. One set of nine rings accompanies the anthem, versicle, and response, and another set of nine the concluding Collect. You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia;
Because he who was born of your body, alleluia,

The second three bells Has arisen, as he promised, alleluia:
Pray for us to the Father, alleluia.

The third three bells V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

The nine bells O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, vouchsafed to give gladness to the world: Grant, we beseech you, that, with the help of the Virgin Mary his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Celebrant 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Come in - to God's pres - ence sing - ing, "Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

Acts 9:1-20

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many

about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE (*chanted in unison*)

Psalm 30:1-6, 12-13

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me | **up** *
and have not let my enemies triumph | **over me**.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried | **out to you**, *
and you restored me to | **health**.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the | **dead**; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the | **grave**.
- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of | **God**; *
give thanks for the remembrance of God's | **holiness**.
- 5 For God's wrath endures but the twinkling of an | **eye**, *
God's favor for a | **lifetime**.
- 6 Weeping may spend the | **night**, *
but joy comes in the | **morning**.
- 12 You have turned my wailing into | **dancing**; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with | **joy**.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without | **ceasing**; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for | **ever**.

THE EPISTLE

Revelation 5:11-14

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA



THE GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

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

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him

the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

THE SERMON.....*The Rev. Matthew Wright*

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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Holy One, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister and People

**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.**

The Priest says

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

THE PEACE

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

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY HYMN

(see following page)

1 We sing the glo - rious con - quest be - fore Da - mas - cus' gate,
 2 O Voice that spoke with - in him; O strong, re - prov - ing Word;
 3 Your grace, by ways mys - ter - ious, our sin - ful wrath can bind,

when Saul, the church's spoil - er came spread - ing fear and hate.
 O Love that sought and held him a pris - oner of his Lord;
 and in those least ex - pect - ed true ser - vants you can find.

God's light shone down from hea - ven and broke a - cross the path.
 help us to know your king - ship that we, in ev - ery hour,
 In us you seek dis - ci - ples to share your cross and crown

His pres - ence pierced and blind - ed the zeal - ot in his wrath.
 in all that may con - front us, will trust your hid - den power.
 and give you fi - nal ser - vice in glo - ry at your throne.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neu-ermehrtes und zu Übung Christl. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningisches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. And harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

The musical score is written on four staves in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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." The score includes triplets and fermatas.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

...and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

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

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN (*see following page*)

1 If you love me, tru - ly love me, keep my com-mand - ments
 2 If you love me, tru - ly love me, come now and my dis -
 4 If you love me, tru - ly love me, in - to the world a -

day by day. If you love me, tru - ly love me,
 ci - ple be. If you love me, tru - ly love me,
 rise and go. If you love me, tru - ly love me,

Fine
 fol - low for - ev - er in my way. _____
 fol - low and so re - mem - ber me. _____ *to verse three*
 there ev - 'ry - where my wit - ness show. _____

3 Through the land my peo - ple feed, al - le - lu - ia,

D.C.
 in their sor - row, in their need, al - le - lu - ia.

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Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**