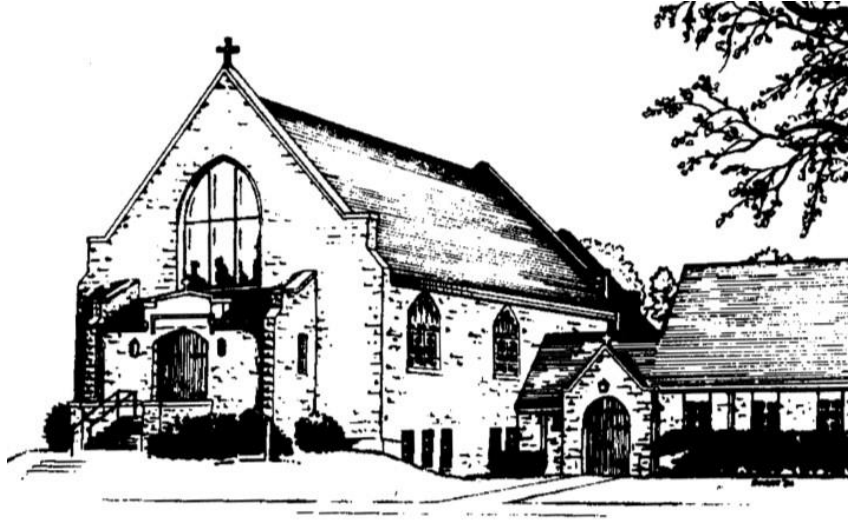


Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255

Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

870-793-2203

Today's Ministers

<i>Officiant:</i>	Brenda Bittle
<i>Chalice Bearer:</i>	Nikki Bittle
<i>Lector:</i>	Mike Schmidt
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Cade Archer
<i>Ushers:</i>	Pam Baxter & Paul Hance
<i>Choir Director & Organist:</i>	Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	Jon Healey
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Jo Cargill-Krug & Nelda Mitchell

This Week's Community Meal (4/30/2025): Team Bumpers

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Paul & Laura Hance to the glory of God and in memory Orville & LouAnn Hance, and Robert & June Terrell.

The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: Rite Two

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn 205: *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing*



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!

Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The people standing (as able), the Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Officiant 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.**

Gloria - Sung (S278)

(BCP 356)

Officiant and People

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.

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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.*

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32

Lector: A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:14-29

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

- 23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

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

There is no procession. The Lector remains at the lectern to read the third reading, using the same form as the first two.

Sequence Hymn 195: *Jesus Lives!*

1 Je - sus lives! thy ter - rors now can no long - er,
2 Je - sus lives! for us he died; then, a - lone to
3 Je - sus lives! our hearts know well nought from us his
4 Je - sus lives! to him the throne o - ver all the

death, ap - pall us; Je - sus lives! by this we know
Je - sus liv - ing, pure in heart may we a - bide,
love shall sev - er; life, nor death, nor powers of hell
world is giv - en: may we go where he has gone,

thou, O grave, canst not en - thrall us. Al - le - lu - ia!
glo - ry to our Sa - vior giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
tear us from his keep - ing ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
rest and reign with him in hea - ven. Al - le - lu - ia!

Third Reading

John 20:19-31

There is no procession. The Lector reads the third reading from the lectern, using the same form as the first two.

Lector: A reading from the Gospel according to 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Brenda Bittle

Nicene Creed *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

All stand, as the People and Officiant say together.

**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.**

Prayers of the People, Form IV – found on page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer

People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively

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 pray for our wardens, vestry, and those who will choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for God's people and equip us for our ministries.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and an anniversary this week, especially Royce Haigwood (4/27), Betsy Bumpers (4/27), Ray Sullins (4/30), and Mike & Rhonda Mundy (5/1).

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 **especially:** Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Cindy Perkey, Tammy Kipfer, Ann Stephenson, the Healey family, Cameron Gillespie, Nick Avants, and Sally Fittsizer.

We pray also for family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested: Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mark & Jennifer, Susan, Jody Gayle, Tara Nance, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Jim & Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Counts, Walker, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, Kathy Kleveno, Mike & Brandy Wyatt, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Christina, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Marilyn Townsend, Georgina Mosser, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Neva Miles Hector, Diarmund (Dar Mood), Sarah, Cody, & Brady, Q, Lulu Freeman, the family of Gabriel Fields, Lois Work, Jeff Owens, Marci Ward, Tammy Itzla, the family of Norma Mobley, Wilma, and Edie Knowles.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Keith Perkins & Jim Wilson, 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 Officiant adds the following Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession

BCP 360

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant 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 Officiant remains kneeling and says

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.***

Peace

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

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.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Officiant may begin the Offertory with the following or another Offertory sentence.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem: My Tribute by Andrae Crouch, Arr. by Dino Kartsonakis

Doxology: 43 v.4

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 people's offerings of money or other gifts are received. The officiant reverently places the offerings on the altar.

The Officiant opens the tabernacle, reverently places the ciborium containing the consecrated bread on the altar, and pours the consecrated wine from the flagon into the chalice.

The Officiant then continues

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

People and Officiant

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Officiant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: Draw Nigh and Take the Body of The Lord

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

On 365:

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.

Post Communion Hymn 481: *Rejoice, The Lord Is King*



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore! Mor -
2 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and

Refrain
tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove. Lift
keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

1-3
up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a - gain I say, re -

Final Ending
joyce! up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a -

gain I say, re - joice!

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Postlude