

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Portland, Maine

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00 AM

Welcome to our celebration of Christ's resurrection.

All that you need to participate in this service can be found in this leaflet.

The hymns with music are in The Hymnal 1982.

The people's responses are in bold print.

As the altar candles are lit prior to the service and the chimes are heard, all are invited to observe a time of quiet, to gather our hearts in a spirit of prayer.

Welcome

The Rev. Myrna Koonce

Prelude Pastoral Air

Robert Schumann

All stand for the

Hymn in Procession #625 "Ye Holy Angels Bright"

The Hymnal 1982

1. Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme
too high doth seem for mortal tongue.

2. Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
behold the Savior's face,
God's praises sound, as in his sight
with sweet delight ye do abound.

3. Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives and praise him still,
through good or ill, who ever lives!

4. My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days till life shall end,
whate'er he send, be filled with praise.

All remain standing for the

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Collect for Purity

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.

The Gloria

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.

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

The Collect of the Day

Presider

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Presider

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.

People:

Amen

All are seated for

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 2: 42-47

Wayne Franklin

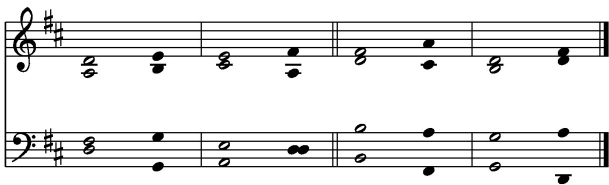
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm Psalm 23

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



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.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand to sing the

Sequence Hymn #645 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The Hymnal 1982

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread’st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

All remain standing for the

Gospel *John 10:1-10*

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

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

Homily

The Rev. Myrna Koonce



After a period of silence, all stand for 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.

All are seated or kneel for the

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Brothers and Sisters, Jesus bore our sins on the cross so that we, free from sins, might live in righteousness. Let us pray to our Lord, saying, "In in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*"

Guardian of our souls, call your Church to greater righteousness. Help us to live by your example and follow in your steps. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Giles in Jefferson, Trinity in Saco, and for Mainers who are food insecure. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guardian of our souls, spread out your table in the presence of those who are troubled. Feed their souls and bodies with your good and generous gifts. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guardian of our souls, you have blessed us with a beautiful planet full of places where we can find rest and peace. May we care for it, as you care deeply for all you have made. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guardian of our souls, you desire the goodwill of all the people. Give us generous hearts and open hands. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guardian of our souls, it is your presence that comforts us. Make your presence known to the sick and the sorrowful, to the fearful and the weak. From our parish prayer list, we pray for Peter Haskell, Martha Gagliardi, Tommy Valente, Jane Reiha, Stephen and Rebecca Seraniche, Marge Devine, Jimmy Devine, and those others we name, silently or aloud. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Guardian of our souls, you came that we may have life and have it abundantly. Bring the dying and the dead into your eternal home. *Pause.*

In your mercy, **hear our prayer**, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

Those who wish may come forward for

Healing Prayer and Anointing

Hymn Response: Heal Me, Hands of Jesus

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
 3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin; dis -
 4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
 me for - give as one for - given and bring me peace to - day.
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

Words: Michael Perry. Music: Sharpe, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Tunes for Grace*.

All stand for

Peace

Presider

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

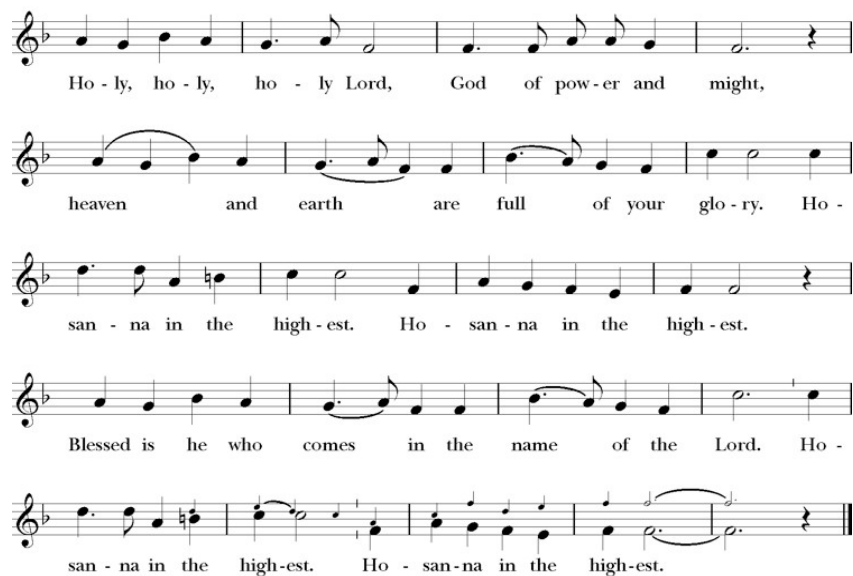
People

And also with you.

The Presider continues with the Preface for Easter, inviting all to join in singing the

Sanctus #S125

The Hymnal 1982



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People kneel or sit. The Presider gives thanks to God on behalf of the people, and invites all to join in the

Memorial Acclamation

Presider Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues, concluding with

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider 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

After a period of silence, all join in singing the

Fraction Anthem #S 155

The Hymnal 1982

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Administration of Communion

All are invited to come forward as directed by the user and stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive communion. Please let an usher know if you would like to receive communion in your pew. Gluten-free consecrated bread is available; simply ask the priest when you are being served if you would like one.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

People **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.

Those who cannot be with us to partake in communion in person are invited to pray the

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.



All remain standing for the

Blessing

Hymn in Procession "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

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1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vis - ions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
sa - vior am hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of his spi - rit, washed in his blood.
bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my

sa - vior all the day long; this is my sto - ry, this is my

song, prais - ing my sa - vior all the day long.

Words: Fanny Crosby (1820-1915).
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908).

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

Postlude Fantasia in C-major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ministers Serving Today

The People of God, called to be St. Peter's Episcopal Church, *Celebrants*

The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Presider & Preacher*

Mr. Herbert Taylor, *Organist*

Mr. Tom Ainsworth, *Crucifer*

Mr. Jake Mahon & Mr. Steve Booth, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Wayne Franklin, *Lector*

Ms. Anita Chandler, *Usher*

Mr. Will Estrella, *Videographer*

Ms. Janene Gorham, *Altar Guild*

Mr. Jonathan McCormick & Ms. Anita Chandler, *Counters*

Congregation, *Coffee Hour Hosts*

Announcements

Welcome to all of you joining us this morning. If you are new to St. Peter's and want to learn more about us, please fill out one of the pew cards and place in the offering plate or give to an usher.

Offering our gifts to God is part of our worship whenever we gather. Offerings are received during the Offertory. You may also mail your gift to: St. Peter's Church, 10 Alton Street Portland, ME 04103, or you can give online directly to St. Peter's by going to our website. Offerings can also be made through Venmo. See the back page of this leaflet for information about Venmo. The second offering plate is for donations to Project Feed, our local emergency food pantry.

This Week at St. Peter's

Vestry, Tue. April 28, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Compline, Wed. April 29, 7:00 pm, Zoom

Coming up at St. Peter's

Emily Keniston Transitional Diaconate Ordination, Sat. May 9, 10 am, St. Luke's, Portland

Youth Service Corps "Lock In" Overnight Event, May 16-17, First Congregational UCC, South Portland

Celebration of New Ministry, Sun. June 7, 4 pm, Church

NOTES ON THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

Robert Schumann's father was an author and book dealer in Zwickau, the German town where Schumann was born. As a child, Robert took piano, flute and cello lessons, and also started composing.

When he was a teenager, he still wasn't sure whether he wanted to be a writer or a composer. But after heading off to the University of Leipzig to study law, he knew for certain he didn't want to be a lawyer! In Leipzig, Schumann took piano lessons with a distinguished teacher named Friedrich Wieck, whose star pupil was his daughter Clara. In spite of the fact that she was nine years younger than he was, Robert Schumann and Clara Wieck fell in love. Clara's father absolutely refused to let the relationship continue. It took years -- and a court battle with Clara's father -- before Robert and Clara Schumann could finally get married.

When the Schumanns' daughter Marie turned seven, her father gave her a small album of piano pieces that he'd written for her. It's from this collection that this morning's prelude comes.

The text for "Ye Holy Angels Bright" owes its present form to two authors separated by 200 years. Richard Baxter (1615-91), an English priest who "grew too Puritan for bishops and too Episcopalian for the Presbyterians," penned a lengthy poem beginning with "Ye Holy Angels Bright." 200 years later, John Hampden Gurney (1802-62) selected stanzas and ideas and created a greatly modified version of the Baxter text which is not really about angels so much as a call to praise God. Angels, the departed souls in heaven, the church on earth, and any singer of the hymn ("My soul, bear thou thy part") are all urged to share in the endless praise of God.

As for our recessional hymn: tune composer Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839-1908) played a melody to her friend Fanny Crosby and asked, "What does the melody say to you?" Without hesitation, Crosby replied that the tune said, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!" and proceeded to recite the entire first stanza of the now-famous hymn. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), blind at the age of six weeks, was a lifelong Methodist who began composing hymns at age six. She became a student at the New York Institute of the Blind at age 15 and joined the faculty of the Institute at 22, teaching rhetoric and history. In 1885, Crosby married Alexander Van Alstyne, also a student at the Institute and later a member of the faculty. He was a fine musician and, like Fanny, a lover of literature. Fanny Crosby's hymns have historically been among the most popular songs sung by Methodists...and members of countless other denominations. "Blessed Assurance" (1873) is one of the ten most popular hymns sung by United Methodists according to hymnologist Carlton Young, and it is one of eight Crosby hymns in the current *United Methodist Hymnal*. Because of her long life, Fanny Crosby had an extraordinary relationship with several United States presidents, even penning poems in their honor on occasion, and she was influential in the spiritual lives of, or friends to, Presidents Martin Van Buren (8th), John Tyler (10th), James K. Polk (11th), and Grover Cleveland (22nd and 24th). In her later years, she addressed a joint session of Congress on the topic of education for the blind.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

The Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, *Bishop*

The Rev. Myrna Koonce, *Priest in Charge*

Mr. Herbert Taylor, *Organist*

Mr. Bruno Mbongo *Sexton*

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