

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



EARTH DAY
APRIL 18, 2021
10:30AM

Introduction:

Celebrant: Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee both in-person and online. We hope that everyone is safe and healthy, and that you are wearing masks and getting vaccinated. In just a few weeks, our bishop will lift most of our COVID restrictions. By mid-July, all restrictions will be gone. Hallelujah.

Today is the third Sunday of Easter and the Sunday before Earth Day. The issues confronting our planet are global in nature, but there are some things we can do about it locally. I ask you to listen to my sermon today as coming from a priest who is also a scientist. I share this with you today out of love and concern.

Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: #199

Come, Ye Faithfull

Please stand and Sing

Words: John Mason Neale; Music: Arthur Seymour Sullivan

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.
that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ 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.**

Gloria in Excelsis: #S-280

Please Stand and Sing

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

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.**

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4

Reader: Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *

People: **you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

Reader: "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *

People: **how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"**

Reader: Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *

People: **when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.**

Reader: Tremble, then, and do not sin; *

People: **speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Reader: Offer the appointed sacrifices *

People: **and put your trust in the LORD.**

Reader: Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *

People: **Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.**

Reader: You have put gladness in my heart, *

People: **more than when grain and wine and oil increase.**

Reader: I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *

People: **for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Words: Charles Wesley



1 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?
 3 Soar we now where Christ has led, fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head;



Death in vain for - bids him rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once he died our souls to save, where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
 made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Make a Difference on Earth Day

The Rev. Bob Wickizer

It seems like everyone loved the rabbit story on Easter, so since today is the Sunday before Earth Day, I thought you might enjoy some environmental jokes this time.

What do you call a gnome who lives in an urban environment? *A metro gnome*

What kind of environment do hobbits live in? *A hobbitat*

My dyslexic child is taking an earth science course on the environment. *He came home and told me that precipitation is 50% of his class grade.*

Did you hear that our government has a plan to lower temperatures in the United States? *They will switch from Fahrenheit to Celsius*

Finally, some good news. If you drive everywhere, you won't have much of a carbon footprint.

Stewardship and care for our planet is no laughing matter, however. Like so many things in modern life, this is a modern challenge that did not exist in Jesus' day. Today we have 100 times more people living on the planet than in Jesus' day, and each person uses 1,000 times more energy. Even so, the bible gives us plenty of admonitions to care for this tiny planet.

- The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Genesis 2:15)
- The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land (Leviticus 25:23-24)
- You shall not pollute the land in which you live (Numbers 35:33)
- And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. (Jeremiah 2:7)
- Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (Revelation 21:1)

Complicating our desire to do the right thing and our good inclinations to follow the Ten Commandments, is the fact that science has been politicized and truthful information has been tossed into a blender called the Internet along with a generous helping of lies, misinformation, and falsehoods. It is challenging to know who to trust, but I can tell you that the television and the Internet are not good places to go.

I am your pastor. I am also a scientist. I did some early work studying atmospheric chemistry in a lab as an undergraduate in the early 1970s. I have followed the field of climate science ever since. I would not be doing my job if I did not give you a few serious things to consider.

- Burning of fossil fuels is the major contributor to warming of the planet. This is demonstrably true.
- Technology will not save us. It might slow things down, but it cannot fix the problem.
- Humanity today is not paying the full price for our modern lives. Whether we throw things away to a landfill or burn fossil fuels, we are moving the cost of our convenience today to future generations.
- Every person and every government must be part of the solution or else.
- The result of doing nothing now is very likely to be catastrophic. We have lost all the flexibility we once had.

The last ice age ended in one human lifetime. When climate processes reach a tipping point, things can change FAST. Human beings have lived through ice ages, but our species has never been confronted with the “hot house earth.” During the period of the dinosaurs, sea level was much higher and tropical plants grew near the north and south poles. We also know that the planet Mars once had a much more friendly atmosphere and water on the surface. It is possible for a planet to lose its water and its atmosphere. I do not tell you these things to frighten you, but this is an alert, something everyone must think about and take action.

What can we do about this and what is the good news here?

Many people in the field of climate science are now becoming vegan and pledging to not travel by air. They talk about kicking their meat habit and their air travel habit. When Joan and I had to purchase new cars a couple of years ago, we could not see the wisdom of driving an all-electric car that was charged by our power plant burning coal, so we decided to purchase gas-electric hybrid vehicles that squeeze every drop of energy out of the fuel we do burn. It was a compromise solution. I purchased an electric lawnmower for mowing part of my yard. I plan to install solar panels and charge the lawnmower from the sun. I have personally recycled everything I can since I was in college. This alone has resulted in almost 70 tons of material avoiding the landfill and getting reused. We compost our kitchen vegetable scraps keeping another ton a year out of the landfill. All of us can do these easy, sensible things and make a difference.

But the single, most effective way to take carbon out of the atmosphere is literally within your grasp. It is a tree, a young, growing tree. Planting and watering young trees can make a huge difference. You could think of it as atoning for your fossil fuel habit.

And there is one more thing. The economics now make sense to do this. Grace Church could install solar panels and in about seven years, save over \$10,000 a year that we now spend on electricity. This is a project the church could do, and it would produce benefits for a long time and lots of good publicity.

The fate of every generation that comes after us is a profound question the church, the government, and individuals living now should wrestle with. Fortunately, there are some very practical things we can all do right now to make a difference. After church, please join us outside and we will put some plants in the ground.

Reflection Song:

Turn, Turn, Turn

Kenneth Yadon & Lance Scott

Prayers of the People

Please sit, kneel or stand

Reader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

People: **St. Augustine's, Oklahoma City; Diocese of Kansas; The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.**

Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For...

People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Bob & Tom, our clergy; Tim & Pat, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

People: **Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

People: **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Jan, Cliff, Esther, Ann, Ronald, Michael, Sheila, J.J., Marlee, Carl, Darlene & Larry, all those affected by the pandemic, all the front line workers involved with patient care, all first responders, law enforcement, all fire and safety personnel, all United States Military serving at home and abroad, postal workers, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

Reader: We pray for those who have died, especially...

People: **Jane Bailey, Chrissy Belden. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...

People: **Alex, Jennifer, Jerry, Katherine, Robert, Zach.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

People: **To you, O Lord.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

Celebrant & 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.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.

Celebrant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain its mission in creation. It is also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the World around us.

Offertory Anthem: #178

Jesus is Lord of all the Earth

Words/Music: Donald Fishel

Choir

(Refrain - Sing at beginning and after each verse)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give
Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for ev - er. Al - le -
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Repeat Refrain

Doxology

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds...

Preface of Easter

Celebrant: But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: #S-125

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.

Celebrant: † Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

Celebrant: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."^{†††} After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."^{†††} Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever **AMEN**.

Lord's Prayer

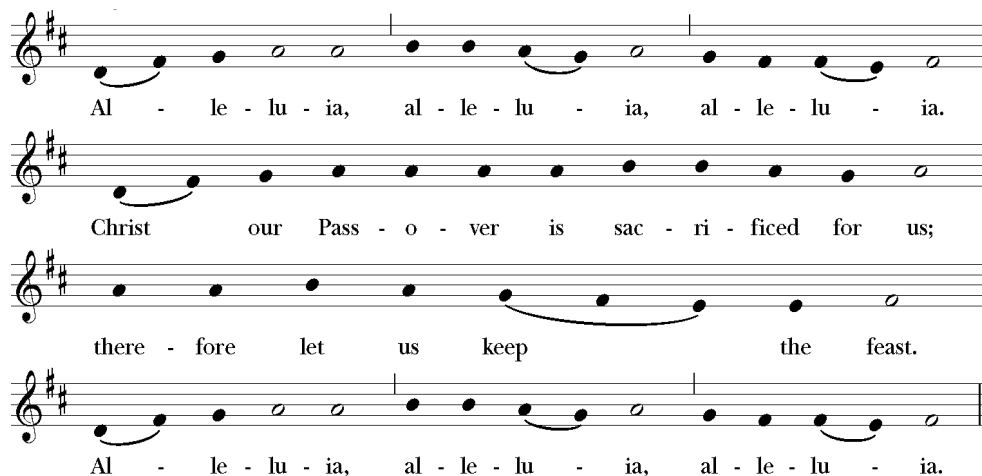
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Celebrant & 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: #S-154



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

At Grace Episcopal Church, "All baptized Christians from any church are welcome to receive Holy Communion."

Communion Hymn:

Piano/Organ Voluntary

Kenneth Yadon

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & 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.

Easter Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

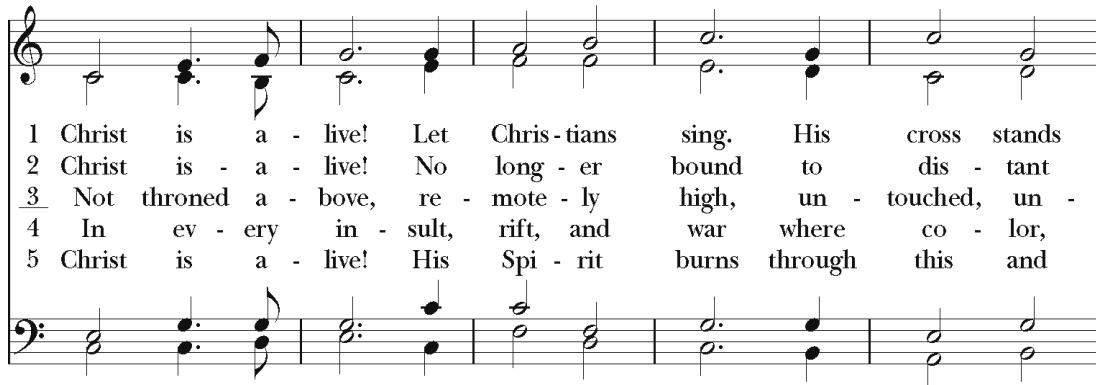
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: #182

Christ is alive

Please stand and Sing

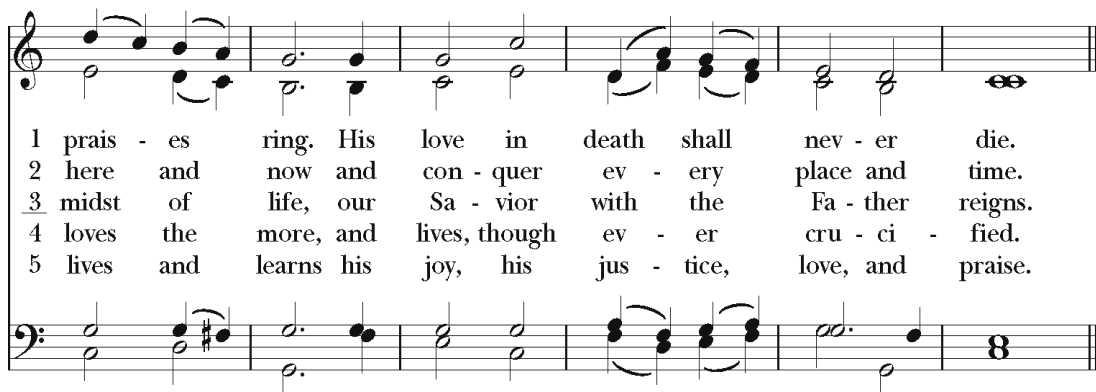
Words: Brian A Wren, Music: Lowell Mason



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and



1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion



1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

THOSE WHO SERVE April 28, 2021

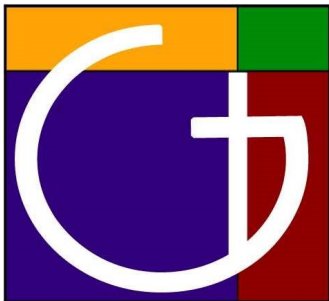
Celebrant:	The Rev. Bob Wickizer
1st Reader:	Tim Holder
2nd Reader:	Thomas Bentley
Head Usher:	David Edwards
1st Cross/Server:	Thomas Bentley
Torch	Braden
2nd Cross	Terra Tomblinson



IN-PERSON SERVICES

Sundays 8:30am & 10:30am

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



Grace Episcopal

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Rector's Email: bob@gracemuskogee.org
Deacon: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington
Music Director: Ken Yadon

