

**Holy Trinity Church**  
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550  
*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

## **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**May 3, 2020**

*9:30 a.m. Choral Service*

*The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher*  
*Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist*

*The vigil light on the altar today is given to the Glory of God and for healing and comfort for Betty & Ray,  
given by Judy Reich.*

**Prelude:** *“On Eagle’s Wings” -Joncas, Setting by Carter*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Processional hymn #664**

**My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name;  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me,  
for his mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;  
one word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows, thy oil anoints my head.**

#### **Acclamation**

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

#### **Collect for Purity**

#### **Gloria: S-236 Glory to you, Lord**

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

#### **Collect** *(said by all)*

**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.**

#### **First Reading**

Reader     A reading from the book of Acts

Those who had been baptized 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.

*Acts 2:42-47*

Reader     The Word of the Lord     **People**    **Thanks be to God**

#### **Silence**

The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia Verse*

### Holy Gospel John 10:1-10

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

**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."

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

### Sermon *Fr. Richard Signore*

#### Prayers of the People

Holy Spirit, Life-giver, we recall before you this day those women known and unknown, who have used the power and gifts you gave them to change the world for good. Grant that, with their example in mind, we may find that same power in ourselves and use our gifts to build your kingdom of justice and peace.

We recall Eve, symbol of that ability to create which all human beings enjoy. **We pray for her power of creativity.**

We recall Sarah, who with Abraham answered God's call to leave her homeland and place her faith in covenant with the Lord. **We pray for her power of faith.**

We recall Hagar, who shunned oppression and exploitation, and dared to talk to the Lord and give a name to God. **We pray for her power to face the unknown courageously.**

We recall Esther and Deborah, who saved a nation through their acts of valor. **We pray for their power of will to act for the good of many.**

We recall Mary, Mother of God, who became God's accomplice in setting all people free. **We pray for her power of trust and self-giving.**

We recall Mary Magdalene and other women, who faced disbelief when they announced Jesus' resurrection. **We pray for their power to believe in the face of skepticism.**

We recall Phoebe and Priscilla, and the other women who were leaders of the early Church. **We pray for their power to spread the Gospel and to inspire communities of faith.**

We recall Hilda and Julian and Hildegard, abbesses and mystics who kept faith and knowledge alive. **We pray for their power of leadership.**

We recall Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Siena, who challenged corruption and renewed the Church. **We pray for their power of intelligence and candor.**

We recall Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, liberators and prophets of the nineteenth century. **We pray for their power of conviction carried into action.**

We recall our mothers and grandmothers, whose lives gave shape to ours. **May the power at work in them and in all women of faith pass now to us. Come, Holy Spirit, come and work in us as you worked in them. Amen.**

**Prayer for the Parish - O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen**

#### **Confession & Absolution**

**BCP, p. 360**

**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 Peace**

## **The Liturgy of the Table**

**Offertory Hymn: "Blessed Jesus, We Are Here" -J.S. Bach**

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 1**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Book, p. 364**

**Fraction Anthem: WLP #875 Be Known to Us**

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

**The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.**

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

**One body we are, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.**

**Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Communion

**Prayer**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)**

**The Post Communion Prayer**

Blessing

**Recessional Hymn #665**

**All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew,  
me through change and chance he guideth only good and only true.**

**God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.**

**Mortal pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust;  
though with care and toil we build them, tower and temple fall to dust.**

**But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.**

**Dismissal**     Let us bless the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *"Old 100th"*