



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020

The Service of the Word

Opening Voluntary: Piano Prelude
Samuel Klauss (piano)

Entrance Hymn: “Be Still for the Presence of the Lord”
*Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found we stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here*

*Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around
He burns with holy fire with splendor He is crowned
How awesome is the sight our radiant King of Light
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen! (p. 355 BCP)
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*

Song of Praise 400: “All Creatures of Our God & King”

*All Creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
Pale silver moon that gently gleams,
O Praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The Collect of the Day - prayed by the Celebrant

The First Reading: Judges 16: 15-22

Then Delilah said to Sampson, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.”¹⁶ With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.

After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him.¹⁷ And his strength left him. Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!”

He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Psalm: 23 (said in unison)

- 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.

Sequence Hymn 645: “The King of Love My Shepherd”

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

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed
Soul he leadeth, and where the verdant
Pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

The Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

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.”

Sermon

The Strength of the Sheep
The Rev. Rob Dixon

The Nicene Creed (p. 358 BCP)

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 & 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.*

(*Fun Fact: “catholic” means universal)

Prayers of the People

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 stand strong and
courageously for your truth. – *Silence* – Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Renew in us a sense of reverent bewilderment for the earth as
your creation and for life itself as a precious gift. Lead us,
Lord, so that we may use the resources of this life 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
you love us. – *Silence* – Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or
spirit; we especially pray for those who are in hospitals,
nursing homes, and assisted living facilities; give them
courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of
your salvation. – *Silence* – Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, 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 Confession (p. 360 BCP)

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: Welcome & Announcements



The Holy Communion

Offertory: “Oceans”: Houston, Crocker, Lighthelm
Samuel Klauss (piano)

The Doxology 380: (v. 3)

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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (p. 361 BCP)

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.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Sanctus: S-129 (said)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People ***Christ has died.***

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again..

The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Prayer for Grace and Blessing

Almighty, everlasting God, we thank you for the gift of Holy Communion, the outward and visible sign of your inward and spiritual Grace. And while we must abstain from this Sacrament at this time, we cannot and do not abstain from asking you for all of the blessings of your Grace – blessing of strength, forgiveness, goodness, and all the new life promised us through your Son Jesus Christ.

Therefore, Father, all together we now pray: *Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon me now and upon all of your children. Fill us, sustain us, and lead us with your life-giving Grace and strength, today and forever. Amen.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 436: “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.*

*Oh blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
Oh happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King of triumph comes!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for Heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

The Dismissal

Closing Voluntary: *Samuel Klauss (piano)*

Sermon Notes

1. What tends to lead you toward becoming weak? (Or, what makes you weak?)

Worry, stress, thinking about money too much; thinking about money too little, drinking, smoking pot (yeah, I said I it), pills or other drugs, toxic work environment, dating wrong kind of people, not sleeping, unaddressed family issues, etc.

2. When you find that you are not in a good place (a place of strength), what helps you to regain your strength?

3. What sort of things in your life, by doing them regularly, keep you strong? Think in five areas of life:

Socially

Physically

Spiritually (worship, prayer, etc.)

Financially

Purposefully (having/serving a purpose)

Prayer List

Requested Prayer:

Adam, Aly & Baby Logan, Ann, Arlene, Barbara, Bob, Catherine M., Catherine Z., Cecil, Fr. Chris, Cindy, Dan, David I., David W., Della, Ellie, Elsie, Fr. Bill, Fred, Grace, Grey, Itzel, James, Jennifer B., Jennifer W., Jillian, Jim, Joseph, Judy G., Julie, Karen, Kathy, Kelly, Ken, Kiefer, Kimberly, Kristyn, Lana, Linda E., Linda M., Luke Allen, Marcy, Melissa, Neta, Patrick B., Paula, Peggy, Polly, Ralph, Robert, Ron, Selene, Sherry Jo, Sherry, Steve, Susan, Teresa L., Terry, Tif, Tom, & The Youth

Military

Adam Thomas, Adam Zigler, Ben Boyer, Bill Elliott, Chase Coleman, Christian Clark, Daniel Payden, Donovan Chau, Doug Wiessman, Dylan Hoewt, Edie Ruiz, Grant Hungerford, Hunter Bailey, Jackie Neville, Jeremy Rice, Jose Hernandez, Kathryn Rubio, Kevin Kahl, Lance Breeding, Marc Ruiz, Mike Darrah, Nicholas Pinkston, Raymond Buckalew, Jr., Sean Haight, Shaun Southall, Terry W. Triplett, Jr., Tyler Post

Great Expectations

The coming birth of a baby to Clay & Tiffanie Coleman

Prayers for Discernment

Rachel Iversen

Repose of the Soul

Peter Shinkle

Maurice Ternon

Clergy

The Rev. Rob Dixon, Pastor/Rector
rdixon@holycrosspensacola.org - 850-477-8596

The Rev. Roger Hungerford, Associate Rector
rog.hungerford@gmail.com - 757-639-5610

Vestry

Angela Hinkle (Sr. Warden), Britt Landrum (Jr. Warden), Mike Spain, (Assistant Jr. Warden), Beth Ramirez, David Curtis, Donovan Chau; Howard Johnson, Laurie White; Mike Bollette, Mike McFee, Susan Bell; Susan Karl (Vestry Member, Clerk) Warren Jerrems (Treasurer) treasurer@holycrosspensacola.org

Parish Staff

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