



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Live Streaming at 10:15 AM at

<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
People The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 68.1-10, 33-36

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4.12-14, 5.6-11

Lector A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17.1-11

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John.

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us offer our prayers in the Name of Jesus, who dwelt among us, died and rose again for our salvation, and ascended into the heavenly realm, responding, "Hear us, ascended Lord."

(a brief silence)

That we may place our lives in the sacred heart of Jesus, who claims us as his own, and reveals his glory through our lives; let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

That our hands may feed the poor and tend the sick, that we may create a church where all are welcomed and where visitors are seen as blessings, and that we may ascend beyond earthly hesitations to grasp the divine inspiration that is implanted within us; let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

For those who fear the discovery of secret sins and the private guilt that has many names, that they may have confidence in the priestly gift of reconciliation, the courage to admit their shortcomings, and the greater courage to accept God's tender forgiveness; let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

For an end to violence and abuse, and to all things that harm God's creation and rob humanity of its inherent dignity; let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

That our President, members of Congress, and those who sit on the Supreme Court may take seriously the authority invested in them, leaving partisanship behind, and exercising leadership that best responds to the people of our nation and world; let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

For those who have died, and whom we commend to eternal life, remembering especially those whom we mention now, both silently and aloud.

(Pause)

Hear us, ascended Lord.

In thanksgiving for our families and friends, and for the communion of saints, we continue our prayers for those whom we mention now, both silently and aloud.

(Pause)

Let us pray.

Hear us, ascended Lord.

Presider You are light, O God: you are life. We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to your care, trusting in the one who is the firstborn of the dead, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy 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, and remembering particularly our own church community, we 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.

And particularly for the blessings given us, that we now name, either silently or aloud.

(pause)

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.

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

**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.**

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and in the power of your gracious might, overcome every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

EASTER SEASONAL BLESSING

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday Prayer: Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever he may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

In Babilone



1 See the Con - queror mounts in tri - umph; see the King in
2 He who on the cross did suf - fer, he who from the
3 Thou hast raised our hu - man na - ture on the clouds to



roy - al state, rid - ing on the clouds, his
grave a - rose, he has van - quished sin and
God's right hand: there we sit in heaven - ly



char - iot, to his heaven - ly pal - ace gate!
Sa - tan; he by death has spoiled his foes.
plac - es, there with thee in glo - ry stand.



Hark! the choirs of an - gel voic - es joy - ful
While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, he is
Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels; Man with



al - le - lu - ias sing, and the por - tals
part - ed from his friends; while their ea - ger
God is on the throne; might - y Lord, in



high are lift - ed to re - ceive their heaven - ly King.
eyes be - hold him, he up - on the clouds a - scends.
thine as - cen - sion, we by faith be - hold our own.

THE DISMISSAL

Presider

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Sunday, May 24 (Today)

Virtual Coffee Hour following the Worship Service (starting sometime between 11:00 and 11:15 AM) via Zoom.

Tuesday, May 26

Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Thursday, May 28

Bible Study at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

An Altar in the World Book Study at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Daily Offices (Monday through Friday)

Daily Morning Prayer: Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM with Mother Sharon Sheffield on the St. Thomas Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/Saint-Thomas-of-Canterbury-Episcopal-Church-of-Long-Beach-CA-124554214274325/>).

Daily Evening Prayer: Monday through Friday at 5:00 PM with Father Michael Fincher on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).

Regarding Zoom Events: Some of our programs are being conducted using Zoom to allow for an interactive experience. You can access an event using your computer, smart phone, or even your landline. Access information is contained in the weekly emails sent to parishioners, or contact Fr. Michael at rector@stgregoryschurch.com or (909) 373-6478.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are You Staying Connected? We have a weekly email newsletter that helps our virtual community stay apprised of worship services, programs, and other important announcements. If you are not receiving these eblasts, contact the parish office at info@stgregoryschurch.com to have your name added to our email list.

One Body & One Spirit Emergency Appeal: The Diocese has established an emergency fund to assist congregations, diocesan institutions, and their employees, who have been affected by the COVID-19 shutdowns. We are encouraged to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in need, if we have the capacity to do so. More information is available at https://diocesela.org/uncategorized/covid-19_emergency-appeal/.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions, contact Kevin so he can know to send it to you while the office is closed. (562) 420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

Are You Receiving News from the Diocese? The Diocese of Los Angeles produces a weekly email newsletter entitled *The Episcopal News*, as well as other periodic email notifications regarding matters of importance to the broader church community. During these uncertain times, it is helpful to hear from the Diocese and our Bishop what is going on at the Diocese and how that impacts our own worship and ministries. If you are interested in receiving these, go to <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/>, fill in your name and email address, and click "Subscribe."

Financial Support of the Parish: We know that for many of your finances are particularly tight right now. You have bills to pay. So does the parish. If you are able, please consider keeping up on your pledge support of St. Gregory's. You can mail your check to the parish office, or make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>. Or you scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Assistance for Our Parishioners: During these difficult times, it may be a challenge for some of our more vulnerable parishioners to get out to get groceries or other necessities. If you need such assistance, please let the Parish Office know and we will figure out how we can help you out. And if you are willing to help out by shopping or running errands for your fellow parishioners, please let the Parish Office know.

Food Bank and Feed My Lambs: As difficulty in obtaining large quantities of grocery products for these ministries continues, greatest product needs right now are: pork & beans (15oz can), corn (15oz can), mac and cheese (7oz box), white rice (1#bag) and pinto beans (1#bag). Anyone under 65 and healthy is welcome to assist on Food Bank distribution day. Please contact Bill Eldon (billeldon@gmail.com, 562.430.2658). Similarly, those under 65 and healthy are welcome to assist with Feed my Lambs. Please contact Tamera Benedict (calbenedicts@gmail.com, 562.301.6800). Your continued support of these ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! In the event of a pastoral emergency (i.e., hospital stay, illness, being homebound), please notify Fr. Michael or the Parish Office. You can call the Parish Office at 562-420-1311. If no one answers, dial 302 for Fr. Michael's extension and leave a message on his voicemail. Or you can call Fr. Michael directly on his cell phone at 909-373-6478. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why I'm here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Michael Carr, Linda Dixon, Ralph Wong, Suzan Laverty, Caroline Roper-Deyo, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, George Gillespie, Anne Ruffner, Roberta Raymer, Patrick McDonough, Dinah Bailes, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Barbara Cleantis, Lisa Fincher Bailey, Molly Dawes, Charles Malonson, Helen Cleveland, Ritchie Cleveland, Rosemary Eldon McBride, Jo Ann Ridenour, Mike Laverty, Lou Duacsek, Joy Fischer, Nika Sherbakova, Michael, Kenneth, Marie, Bob Huff, Dwight Scott, Kathy Stein, Kim White, B C Deans, Jack Reidy, Alixe Paul, and Steve B.

Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.

Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:





ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
562-420-1311
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David J. Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music
714-899-1902

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator
562-420-1311
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm, Monday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com