

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024

8:00 (spoken) and 10:15 AM (with music)

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

A Meditation on "Brother James's Air"

Harold Darke

(The people stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

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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 (8:00 service)

**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.**

(The people are seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

O Be Joyful

Martha Jones Burford

Sean Dunnahoe, Owen Groat, percussion

*O be joyful in our God all the earth! Bring a song of praise to our Creator!
O be joyful in our God all the earth! Praise the source of breath and life.*

May all lands be joyful before you, O God;
Serve you with gladness
and come before your presence with a song.

For we know that you are God;
you yourself have made us and we are yours;
We are your people and the sheep of your pasture. (Psalm 100)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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.**

(The people are seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 4.5-12

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Setting: Marty Haugen

The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from death in-to life. _____

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **Antiphon**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth
my spirit shall sing the music of your Name. **Antiphon**

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **Antiphon**

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. **Antiphon**

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
All the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

1 John 3.16-24

Lector A Reading from the First Letter of John

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

(The people stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 10.11-18

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Halle, Halle, Halle (*sung twice*)

Traditional Caribbean, arr. Marty Haugen

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le -
lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

(The people are seated)

SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silent reflection)

NICENE CREED (*Please stand*)

**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

As one flock with one Shepherd, let us lift our voices in prayer for the Church and the world.

Let us love, not in word of speech
But in truth and action to allow us to reach
The Good Shepherd calls us to abide
With the grace of God as our guide.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Help us to lay down our life, assured
To pick up our life through Christ our Lord
We pray for our common ministries, as in truth and action we abide
With the grace of God as our guide.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

For our bishop, John, and all those preparing for Confirmation,
For our youth, and all those in formation
That in truth and action they may abide
With the grace of God as their guide.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

May wisdom guide every national, state, and local official
For their work to be beneficial
That in truth and action they may abide
With the grace of God as their guide.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Bring healing to a broken world
Rescue us from that which we make us unfurled
That in truth and action we can all abide
With the grace of God as our guide.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

May the sick and broken hearted be healed
May the souls of the departed be sealed
Give all comfort that they may abide
With the grace of God as their guide

Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Presider Grant, we prayer, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worth to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Risen Lord.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Brother James's Air

arr. Mack Wilberg

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
Thy rod and staff they comfort still
They comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days
Will surely follow me;
And in my father's heart always
My dwelling place shall be. (Psalm 23)

PRESENTATION HYMN

We Know That Christ is Raised

Engelberg

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat. The lyrics are: "We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Em-braced by death he broke its fear-ful hold; A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood." The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "and our des - pair he turned to bla - zing joy. Al - le - The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:". The third staff includes a first ending bracket and a second ending marked "To Beginning". The lyrics for the third staff are: "lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN!".

Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), Music Engelberg, Vharles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It features four staves of music, alternating between a Celebrant and the People. The first staff is for the Celebrant with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the People with lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant with lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People with lyrics: "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The music uses simple rhythmic patterns with some accents and slurs.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

At the 8:00 Service:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

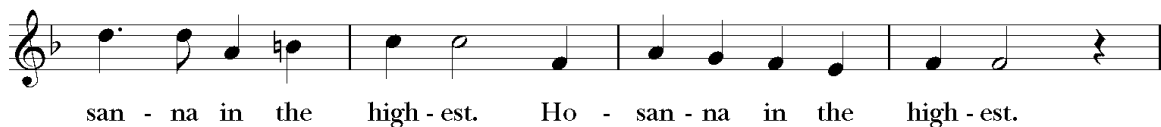
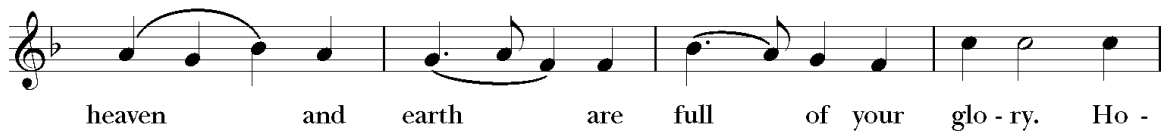
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

At the 10:15 Service:

A Community Mass, Richard Proulx



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us

from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A period of silence is kept after the Presider breaks the host)

At the 8:00 Service:

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

At the 10:15 Service:

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

David York

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our pass - ov - er is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Presider says the following or a similar invitation

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Virgil Thomson

Sally Curry, soloist

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.

The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
oh, may thy house be mine abode
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,

while others go and come;
no more a stranger or a guest,
but like a child at home. (Isaac Watts Paraphrase of Psalm 23)

COMMUNION HYMN

He Leadeth Me

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

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THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

VOLUNTARY

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

Healey Willan

If you wish to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly, out of respect for the Organist and out of courtesy for those staying to listen.

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the worship service

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

TODAY’S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	8:00 SERVICE	10:15 SERVICE
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	Ian Bond
Acolyte	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Patty Rohling	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Holly Graham	Beth Eldon Cheryl Rodi

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

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 200

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Gaudeamus pariter



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.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 708

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Sicilian Mariners

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

COMMUNION HYMN

He Leadeth Me

He Leadeth Me



- 1 He lead - eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
- 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,
- 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
- 4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,



What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834-1918

Music: HE LEADETH ME, William B. Bradbury, 1815-1868

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 205

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

Gelobt sei Gott

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, April 23

Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Thursday, April 25

Morning Prayer at 11:00 AM in the Chapel.

Bible Study at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

Sunday, April 28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 8:00 AM in the Church.

Sunday School for ages 5 and up at **9:30 AM** in Room 7.

Holy Eucharist (with music) at 10:15 AM in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)

Daily Offices (Tuesday through Thursday)

Daily Morning Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Thomas Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/Saint-Thomas-of-Canterbury-Episcopal-Church-of-Long-Beach-CA-124554214274325/>).

Daily Evening Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 28 – Music at Four

Laós Chamber Music at 4:00 PM. Laós Chamber Music, hosted on the campus of Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel and led by cellist Dustin Seo, will present music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Johannes Brahms. Inspired by the tradition of liturgy as an active invitation to community and belongingness through public participation, Laós Chamber Music believes that music can also serve as a conduit for human connection and incubate safe and vulnerable spaces for individuals to feel welcomed and heard. A reception will follow the concert.



Thursday, May 9 – Ascension Day Service

Ascension Day is one of the seven Principal Feasts of the Church, celebrating the Risen Christ's ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter. Because it always falls on a Thursday, it tends to get lost in the shuffle. But for the last several years, the three Long Beach Episcopal congregations have worked to change that, coming together in a bilingual celebration of Holy Eucharist. This year, St. Gregory's will be hosting our third annual Ascension Day service on **Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 PM**. Come out and celebrate this special feast day of the Church with our fellow Long Beach congregations!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Month Collection: Thank you for your generous quality donations for men in need in Long Beach. We collected toothbrushes, dress clothes, belts, shoes, T-shirts, casual wear, duffle bags, and more. Our Parish continues to bless those in need.

Generosity Comes to the Food Bank: St. Gregory's Food Bank has once again been the grateful recipient of a large donation of food from the East Long Beach Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, thanks to their outreach coordinator Staci Loveridge. These donations can assist our Food Bank for many months. This time, Bill Eldon and his truck were out of town, so the entire Food Bank volunteer group stepped up to make sure we did not lose this amazing opportunity.

Pentecost Readers Needed: Pentecost is on May 19th this year. It is our parish custom that on Pentecost, we hear the Gospel (John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15) read in various languages. If you speak (or at least can read) another language and would like to participate, please let Fr. Michael know either in person or by emailing rector@stgregoryschurch.com. Be sure to let him know what language you would like to do. And note that readers will be responsible for providing the Gospel text in their chosen language.

Altar Flower Donations: Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

Feed My Lambs and Food Bank: THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs** has the following needs: **100 HARDBOILED EGGS; HOMEMADE COOKIES**
 - **Homemade cookies** can be brought to church on any Sunday, in ziplock freezer bags, labeled "Feed My Lambs" to the kitchen.
 - **Wednesday, May 1 from 9:00 AM to Noon** you can deliver to the office:
 - Hardboiled eggs
 - Homemade Cookies
 - **Thursday, May 2 until 11:00 AM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
 - Homemade Cookies
 - Hardboiled Eggs
 - **Friday, My 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** you can deliver to the kitchen:
 - Hardboiled Eggs
 - **Our Guests always need white athletic socks and belts!** Which you can put in the Feed My Lambs bin outside the church on any Sunday.
 - **Volunteers** – We need some additional volunteers to help with serving our guests at St. Luke's on the first Saturday of every month. Contact Tamera if interested. If you have questions about helping out with Feed My Lambs or dropping off items, contact Tamera Benedict at (tlbenedict4@gmail.com, 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** has the following needs:
 - **Volunteers** – We need volunteers to assist with the Food Bank distribution on the THIRD Wednesday of the month between 8:30 and 11:00 AM. Please contact Kevin at the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish: We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Parish Directory: Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the “Instant Church Directory” on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal: The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! With our combined ministry program with St. Thomas of Canterbury comes additional coverage for pastoral emergencies. In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Father Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478) any day except Monday, his Sabbath day. Mother Sharon (562-833-3393) covers emergencies in both communities on Monday, just as Father Michael covers emergencies in both parishes on Friday, Mother Sharon’s Sabbath. And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That’s why we are here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Michael S., Bob Gergen, Barbara Smuck, Mother Beryl, Kathryn Courtney, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Rosy Ixco, Harold Peacock, Heather Simundson, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Danny Kimball, Betty Lang, Anne Cantrell, Karen McDonough, Marilyn Finney, Kathy Stein, Matt Burger, David Feit-Pretzer, Kathy Edwards, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Jo Ridenour, Keeley Gilmore, Robyn, David, Edith Finney, Mark Padgett, Marissa G., Maria White, Anita, Laura Mae Harper, Gloria Neal, Wallace Landry

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.



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 H. Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com