

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024

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

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

Voluntary in A Major

William Selby

(The people stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Bulletin Page 17

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 – S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(The people are seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 8.26-40

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

PSALM 22.24-30

Setting: David York

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.



My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:

"May your heart live for ever!" **Antiphon**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the LORD;

he rules over the nations. **Antiphon**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him;

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

1 John 4.7-21

Lector A Reading from the First letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he

is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

(The people stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

In Christ There is No East or West

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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 musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first three staves end with a double bar line, and the fourth staff concludes the piece with a final double bar line.

(The people are seated)

SERMON

The Rev. Gary Commins

(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

Christ has gathered us as branches of the true vine. Let us offer prayers to God who does for us whatever we ask.

For the whole world and all the churches of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For this holy gathering, and for our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all the baptized whose faces shine with the light of Christ.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, John our Bishop, for Michael our Rector, for Gary our supply priest this week, for all who minister, and all the holy people of God.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For those who suffer and those who mourn; stir up in us a spirit of grace and generosity, that we may give freely to those in need.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all places in strife and unrest, that you may inspire all your people to seek a just peace and that we may hear the voices of those who are unheard.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For all those requiring ongoing care and for all those in danger and need: Those who are sick or suffering, prisoners, captives, and their families, those who are hungry. We especially pray for those we name now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

Lord, hear our prayer.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For the dying and the dead. We especially pray for those we name now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

Lord, hear our prayer.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Gregory our patron, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord, our God.

Presider Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who abides in all who love you. Hear the prayers we offer this day and give us your Spirit of peace to love our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

O Love

Elaine Hagnberg

O Love that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
O I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be. (George Matheson 1842-1906)

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 -" and "The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:". The third staff begins with a double bar line and the instruction "To Beginning" above it, followed by a repeat sign and the number "2.". The lyrics for this section 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

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

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.

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,

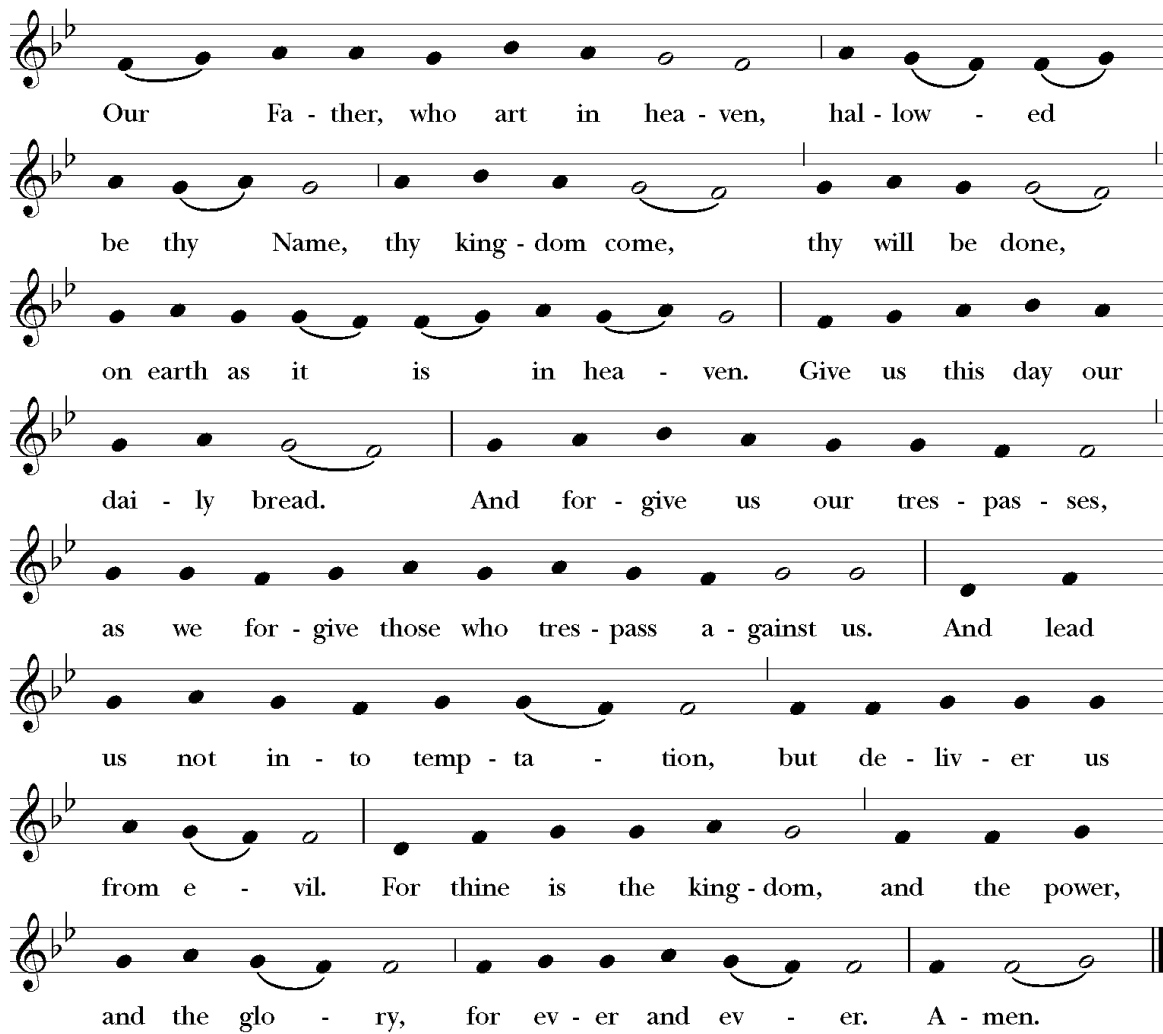
**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 PASSEOVER

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

I Am the Vine

Robert G. Farrell

I am the vine, you are the branches,
pruned and prepared for all to see.
Abide in me, and I in you, loving each other as I loved you;
Chosen by me to bear the fruit of heaven.

I am the vine, you are the branches.
If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
Ask what you will, what you desire,
And it shall be done for you. (John 15:5)

COMMUNION HYMN

I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord

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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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Bulletin Page 20

THE DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

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.*

**We welcome Father Gary Commins, who is filling in for
Father Michael while he is away at a clergy wellness conference!**

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

| | <u>8:00 SERVICE</u> | <u>10:15 SERVICE</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Presider & Preacher | Fr. Gary Commins | Fr. Gary Commins |
| Organist | — | David York |
| Crucifer | — | David Luebben-Morrill |
| Acolyte | — | Ian Bond |
| Lector | Alfonso Lemus | Alice O'Keefe |
| Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) | David Luebben-Morrill Holly Graham | Carol Bernstein Fran Luebben-Morgan |

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 182

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Truro

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.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 529

In Christ There is No East or West

McKee

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for three voices (1, 2, and 3) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with three parts and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

COMMUNION HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 304

I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord

Land of Rest

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Beach Spring



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, April 30

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

Thursday, May 2

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **11:00 AM** in the Chapel.

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

Sunday, May 5 – Sixth 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

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