

# HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Of Hayward and Castro Valley

*You've got questions... We've got questions!  
Let's go on a journey together...*



## Ascension Sunday May 16, 2021

RECTOR: The Rev. Mark Spaulding, Email: [mark@holycrosscv.org](mailto:mark@holycrosscv.org)  
In case of pastoral emergency please contact a priest at (510) 889-7233  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: The Rev. Pamela Cranston & The Rev. Kathy Trapani  
DEACON: The Rev. Deacon Patricia Pearson  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Ray Hickman  
RECTOR'S WARDEN: Diane Granlund PEOPLE'S WARDEN: Janet Williams  
NURSERY: Maya Fencsik & Eli Spaulding  
BOOKKEEPER: Diane Granlund & Pat Oakman  
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Pikul, office hours: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Mon. – Fri

*When necessary we begin our liturgy with the tolling of our prayer gong. We ring the bell once for each child of God taken from this world by the latest gun violence. We pray that we will, very soon, never have to ring our gong again.*

## The Gathering Rite

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**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.**

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

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

FIRST READING

ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus -- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

"So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

### PSALM 93

- 1 **The LORD is King;  
he has put on splendid apparel; \*  
the LORD has put on his apparel  
and girded himself with strength.**
- 2 **He has made the whole world so sure \*  
that it cannot be moved;**
- 3 **Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; \*  
you are from everlasting.**
- 4 **The waters have lifted up, O LORD,  
the waters have lifted up their voice; \*  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.**
- 5 **Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea, \*  
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**
- 6 **Your testimonies are very sure, \*  
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,  
for ever and for evermore.**

THE EPISTLE:

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 24:44-53

*People*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

SERMON

THE REV. PAMELA CRANSTON

## OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

*You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You created our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.*

*You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
Good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.*

*You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.*

*You are our God. We worship you.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by The Rev. Pamela Cranston

Ascended Christ, we thank you for all the ways you watch over and guide us in our daily lives.

We pray for the welfare of the world and the whole creation, especially for those who suffer from Covid, fires, floods and natural disasters, for all health care workers and first responders, for all who work to preserve our resources and to fight the cause of climate change.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the leaders of the world that they may govern with wisdom and compassion to create a world of reconciliation, justice and peace.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are attacked because of their race or faith that we may have grace to work for justice for their sakes.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray the church and for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Marc, our Bishop, for our clergy: Mark, Martha, Pamela, Kathy and Patricia, and the whole Holy Cross community that we may continue to care for each other and for those in need.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer, especially the sick and the mentally ill, the poor and the unhoused, for all children and the elderly, for victims of war, violence, hunger and abuse, for all refugees and all who feel alienated, distressed and the lonely.  
Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died and for those who mourn or those whose lives have been touched by tragedy, may they know Your consoling presence through all those who reach out to comfort them.  
Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Praise and glory to you, God of space and time, humble savior, king of love. You have ascended to your royal throne and are exalted to draw us all to your love. May we, whom have been redeemed by You and called to be guests at your table, receive and put to use the gifts you have given us. **Amen.**

#### THE PEACE

*Presider*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**

#### THE PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

**Almighty and gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we give you thanks for your servants as they celebrate a special milestone or anticipate a time of travel. Watch over them and protect them. Bless and guide them wherever they go and surround them with your loving care on every side. Grant them wisdom in the living of their lives, and grace to keep the vows and promises they have made. And may your peace, which passes all understanding, abide in their hearts all the days of their lives, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Holy Communion

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*People*            The Lord be with you.  
*Presider*        **And also with you.**  
*People*            Lift up your hearts.  
*Presider*        **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*People*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*Presider*        **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.  
**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent you only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Presider and People*

**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.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Miriam and Deborah, of Mary the Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**



#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.  
A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMUNION

Today we are offering a Drive-thru distribution of the sacrament following the service. We will announce times that we will be available to distribute communion during the service.

Follow the parking lot around to the center section where we will be available to communicate people in your car. If you would prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference.

You may wish to nod or slightly bow while seated when the Eucharistic Minister presents the Chalice filled with consecrated wine. We will not be touching or drinking from the Chalice at this time.

Please follow these safety protocols:

- If you are running a fever, or not feeling well, please stay home.
- Please wear a mask, you can remove it to receive communion.
- Please use hand sanitizer just before receiving if you have any.
- Please remain in your car.
- Please keep your hand(s) flat, and do not grab the hand of the priest who will place a piece of the consecrated bread in your hand.



*Our Eucharistic Visitors will be sent out to share communion this morning, the congregation is invited to send them forth with the following rite.*

*Presider* In the Name of God, we send you forth to share communion with those who are absent from this table.

*People* **As you have been fed, now feed others.**

*Presider* Our prayers are with you, go in peace.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you that today we can be fed with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### THE EASTER BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us God's children through the resurrection of God's Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God's 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 forever. **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.**

*The people are dismissed with these words*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**PRESIDING:** 8:30 The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann; 10:15 The Rev. Mark Spaulding

**PREACHING:** The Rev. Pamela Cranston

**ASSISTING CLERGY:** 8:30 The Rev. Mark Spaulding; 10:15 The Rev. Martha Kuhlmann

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** 8:30 Terry Miller; 10:15 Alissa Fencsik

**LECTORS:** 8:30 Sandra Sommer & Diane Granlund; 10:15 Georgia Brown & Charlie Edens

**MUSIC MINISTER:** Ray Hickman

**EUCCHARISTIC BREAD BAKER:** Diane Granlund

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WRITTEN BY:** The Rev. Pamela Cranston