

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



EASTER DAY

April 5, 2026
10:10AM

**FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST
OF EASTER DAY
10:10 AM**

The bells ring at 10:00AM to signal a period of prayerful silence to precede the service.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 207

Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Celebrant
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

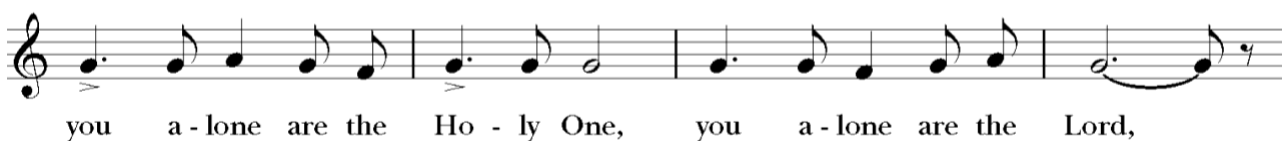
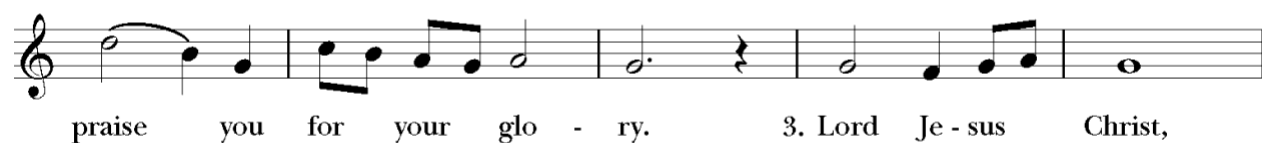
People
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Celebrant prays

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.

— o — o —

A - men.



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.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A - men.

The people are seated for the reading of the Scripture

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 10: 34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Chant: Thalben-Ball

The Psalm is sung by the choir.

Psalm 118:14-17, 22-24

Confestimini Domini

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3: 1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

HYMN 203

"O sons and daughters, let us sing!

O filii et filiae

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28: 1-10

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Easter Acclamations

Timothy Brown (b. 1946)

Christ conquers! Christ reigns! Christ rules over all!

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Rick Lawler

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE 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,

from *Common Worship*

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In joy and hope let us pray to our God.

That our risen Savior may fill us and the whole Church with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter,

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world,
we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and
strengthen them in their affliction,
we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised
on the last day,
we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful
witness to his resurrection,
we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The people add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.

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:

SANCTUS

S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

People
—●—○—○—
A-men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

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

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The consecrated bread is broken; the Cantor and People then sing,

This setting is not used in Lent.

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us
keep the feast.

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says an invitation to Communion.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized persons, regardless of Christian tradition, are welcome and invited to receive Communion. To receive the sacrament, stand or kneel to receive the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Receive the wine that follows either by drinking from the cup or by retaining the wafer to dip lightly into the cup. If you do not wish to receive Communion, your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest, who will offer a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.

For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, in thanksgiving for your resurrection, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, alleluia:
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

MOTET—*Sicut cervus*

G.P. de Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

All stand and join in singing the hymn.

HYMN 193

That Easter day with joy was bright

Puer nobis

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE EASTER 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.**

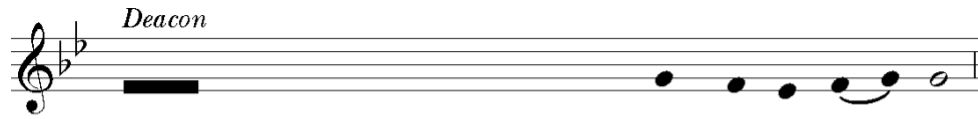
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN 208

The strife is o'er

Victory

THE DISMISSAL



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The setting of the Mass Ordinary is by William Mathias (1934-1992).

LEADERS IN THIS LITURGY

The Reverend Rick Lawler, celebrant

Michelle Curry, vergers

Dr. Joby Bell, guest organist

Dr. James Baumgardner, organist and choirmaster

Kate Haycraft and John Lynch, cantors

Grayson Milholin, Soloist at the Offertory

Leslie Billingsley, crucifer

Darlene Van Dyck and Valerie Purcell, eucharistic ministers

Hannah Reule and Bryce Honeycutt, torch bearers

Luba Skibo, Darlene Van Dyck, Sterling Hutcheson lectors

THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In loving memory of Marshall Culp by Kaye Culp

In loving memory of Raeford Brown by Sandra Brown

In loving memory of Belinda Wright Scanlon, Bob & Elsie Wright, and Joseph Keith Van Dyke by Darlene Van Dyke

In honor of Hudson Van Dyke, my family, Fr. Richard Lawler, and Beth Lawler by Darlene Van Dyke

In loving memory of Dean & Fran, Karen & Greg, and William & Michael by Lynn Searfoss & Greg Rhoads

In honor of Katy Thompson by John Carlson

In loving memory of Ed, Dorothy, Peggy, and Sally Lou Carlson by John Carlson

In honor of this parish by AJ & Jane Barghothi

In honor of our family, grandchildren, and all those who have passed by Doug & Mary Galke

In honor of Graham Pruett by Carly Pruett

In honor of our children & grandchildren by Mark & Michelle Curry

In honor of our parents by Pete & Sally Page

In loving memory of Barbara Weedan Page, Horace Thomas Burgess, and Della McGee Burgess by Pete & Sally Page

In loving memory of H. Randolphe Clementi Holder, and Eric & Walter "Torch" Turnbow by the Holder-Turnbow Family

In honor of Judy & Gary Gloster, and the resurrections this year by Owene Courtney

In honor of Drew-Lynn McNicoll-Pierce by Joann Hallmark

In loving memory of Jordan Hallmark, Alex Hallmark, Sara Hallmark, Gene Hallmark, and Grover & Carrie Howell by Joanne Hallmark

In honor of Eugene George Purcell Jr, and Wesley Osborne Doggett by Peter & Valerie Purcell

A GIFT TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM IS GIVEN

In honor of our choir by Kaye Culp

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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