

Liberian Episcopal Community USA

LECUSA

10TH ANNIVERSARY GATHERING



OPENING EUCHARIST

April 10, 2015 — 7:00PM

**The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith
Bishop of Newark, Presider & Preacher**



**TRINITY & ST. PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL
608 BROAD STREET, NEWARK, NJ**

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

*All are invited to participate in this liturgy by joining in the singing and the responses in **bold** type. Please pay attention to the order of the service.*

The People are seated; the choir takes their place. The ministers gather in the narthex. The Liturgy begins after a prayer by at the entrance by the Bishop/Presider.

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At the Procession

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2. under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home. *Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748)*

The People standing (as able), the Presider says:

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Presider 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. **Amen.**

At the Introit “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee. *Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933)*

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty Father, who gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification: Give us grace so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Reading *Please be seated.*

Ms. Roberta Brown Cooper

Hear the Word of God as it is written in the *Acts of the Apostles* (4:1-12).

While Peter and John* were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them,² much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead.³ So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.⁴ But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,* and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners* stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus* is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."*

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated.

Psalm 116:1-8 (*to be said responsively between Leader and People*)

Ms. Dolores Macauley

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,*
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me,*
I came to grief and sorrow.
3. Then I called upon the Name of the LORD:.*
O LORD, I pray you, save my life.
4. Gracious is the LORD and righteous;.*
our God is full of compassion.
5. The LORD watches over the innocent;.*
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
6. Turn again to your rest, O my soul,*

for the LORD has treated you well.

7. For you have rescued my life from death,*
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8. I will walk in the presence of the LORD*
in the land of the living.

At the Gradual “And Are We Yet Alive?” *Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel *Please remain standing as are able.* The Venerable Dr. John T. Hanson
Hear the Word of God as it is written in the *Gospel according to John* (21:1-14).
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,* Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ ⁶He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards* off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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

The Sermon: The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith
Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Newark

Prayers the People

Mrs. Roselind Mellish

Let us offer our prayers to God for all peoples.

For the Church universal, of which you, O Christ, are the foundation
and chief cornerstone,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your Name,

We thank you, Lord.

For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with
the bread of life,

We thank you, Lord.

For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it,

We thank you, Lord.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as may be best for us,

We thank you, Lord.

For the pardoning of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful
people,

We thank you, Lord.

For protection from being overwhelmed by the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa
and elsewhere, and for courage and resources to overcome it,

We thank you, Lord.

For blessing on our relationships, especially Newark and Liberia,

We thank you, Lord.

For grace and wisdom for +Mark and +Jonathan as they shepherd God's people
committed to their charge,

We thank you, Lord.

In thanksgiving for the ministry of James+ the leader of this organization, LECUSA,

We thank you, Lord.

For all efforts to eradicate racism in this and every land.

We thank you, Lord.

For the blessing of our lives with your goodness,

We thank you, Lord.

The people may add their own petitions, aloud or silently. A brief period of silence follows.

The Presider stands and says

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution *Please kneel as you are able.*

The Presider then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief period of silence is kept. Presider and People say

For our neglect of friend and neighbor,

Lord, have mercy.

For our disregard of the earth and its creatures,

Lord, have mercy.

For our silence at injustice and human need.

Lord, have mercy.

For not acknowledging the face of God in each other.

Lord, have mercy.

The Bishop stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(All stand)*

We meet in Christ's name to share the peace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Presentation -----District 9, Diocese of Newark

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory *The Presider says an Offertory Sentence.* “And Are We Yet Alive?”

1. And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!
4. Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross
till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss
so we may Jesus gain. *Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788); tune: Dennis; Meter: SM*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the People's offering of bread and wine, and money or other gifts to the Deacon. All stand as the gifts are presented and placed on the Altar, while the following **Doxology** is sung.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 1, from *Enriching Our Worship I*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

The following Preface is used.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

The Sanctus *Presider and People*

Hymnal S130

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, 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.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation *cantor*

LEVAS 260

We remember His death.
We proclaim His resurrection.
We await His coming in Glory.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ’s Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with Philip and all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

LEVAS 264

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,

Presider and People All stand and hold hands across the aisle.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever *Amen*.**

Breaking of the Bread

LEVAS 268

Presider and People

**Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.
Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us;
There-fore let us keep the feast.
Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**

The Presider says the following Invitation

These are God's Holy Gifts for God's Holy People.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The congregation is asked to join in singing the communion hymns.

Jesus Is Lord of All the Earth

Hymnal 178

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to his Name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.
3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever.
4. Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior

He Lives

LEVAS 42

1. I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever others say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

2. In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.
3. Rejoice, rejoice. O Christian, lift up your voice and sing.
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Because He Lives

LEVAS 43

1. God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

2. How sweet to hold a new born baby,
And feel the pride, and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to vict'ry,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

After Communion, the Presider says:
Let us pray.

The People join in saying this prayer.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us 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 Presider gives the blessing
The God of peace, who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and your loved ones far and near
and remain with all of you for ever. **Amen.**

A Deacon dismisses the People:
Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Closing Hymn “Christ is alive! Let Christians Sing”

Hymnal 1982

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.
3. Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior with the Father reigns.
4. In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Leading Our Celebration

Presider and Preacher

The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith
Tenth Diocesan Bishop of Newark

Assisting Presbyters

Vested Clergy of LECUSA

The Rev. Canon Bruce W. Woodcock
*Manager, Pastoral Care Education and Wellness
Church Pension Group*

Bishop's Chaplain

The Rev. Slewion Lewis

Verger

Theophilus Thomas
Trinity and St. Philips Cathedral, Newark

Lector

Ms. Roberta Brown Cooper
LECUSA Member

Psalm

Ms. Dolores Macauley
House of Prayers, Newark
Member, LECUSA Local Host Committee

Gospeler

The Venerable Dr. John T. Hanson

Intercessor

Mrs. Roselind Mellish
LECUAS Member

Ushers and Acolytes

From Trinity and St. Philips Cathedral, Newark

Choir Director and Minister of Music

Gail Blache-Gill
*Church of the Incarnation Jersey City
St. Paul's Church, Jersey City*

Choir and Musicians

Church of the Incarnation and St. Paul's, Jersey City