

The Liturgy During Easter

From the dark purple of Lent, and an altar stripped bare on Maundy Thursday, the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day were exuberant in their beauty. White replaced purple while lilies and cut flowers decorated the altar and church. A colorful ring of flowers graced the Paschal Candle. These visual changes were echoed in the liturgy itself. Alleluias, banished during Lent, joyously sprung from our lips while singing Easter hymns, during the Easter Acclamation: *Alleluia. Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.* and, most poignantly, during the Fraction Anthem: *Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.* The Dismissal is even framed with *double Alleluias!* This year we will be omitting the Confession and Absolution from the liturgy throughout the Easter Season (March 31 through May 18). This is a common practice in many Episcopal Churches and reminds us that Christ lived, died, and was raised again in order to achieve for us the forgiveness of sin.



As we enter into a single, 9:30 a.m. service, we will together explore and experience the various liturgies found in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP). **Some Sundays will utilize the more contemplative and meditative beauty of Rite I.** It is easy to forget that Rite I was *the* liturgy of the Church until the current BCP was authorized for use in 1979. **Other Sundays will make use of Rite II, a more joyous and high-spirited liturgy. We will occasionally use more contemporary sources such as *Enriching Our Worship*, Wyoming Eucharistic Prayer, or delve into the variety of Celtic liturgies available to us.**

You can be assured that, no matter the Rite or liturgy being used, worship at St. Mark's will always be authentically Episcopal and adhere to the rubrics and other directions contained in the BCP.

A Quick Word about Posture

During prayers, BCP will often offer instructions such as *kneel* or *stand*. In a Rite I service, it will most often read *kneel* or *stand* while a Rite II liturgy typically reverses this and advises *stand* or *kneel*. The action first cited is the preferred one. **However, please do whatever you are most comfortable with and accustomed to doing.**

