

A Service of the Word

Easter II April 24, 2022

O: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

O: Let us pray.
We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: CP 231 That Eastertide with Joy...

O: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

**ALL: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We**

have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.
Amen.

ABSOLUTION

ALL: Amen.

O: The peace of the Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Acts 5.27-32

PSALM 150

SECOND READING: Revelation 1.4-8

GRADUAL HYMN: CP 205 The Day of Resurrection

GOSPEL: John 20.19-31

RESPONSORY HYMN: CP 374 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

1. What is the challenge in the text?
2. What is the challenge in our world?
3. What is the grace in the text?
4. Where is the grace in our world?

APOSTLES' CREED

O: Let us confess our faith as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 220 Christ is Risen, Christ is ...

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

THE LORDS' PRAYER

O: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

O: Glory to God

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: CP 239 Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

DISMISSAL

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Readings and Prayers for Easter II April 24, 2022

Collect of the Day

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us.

In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others.

Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we who have not seen may yet believe. Amen.

First Reading: Act 5:27-32

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Second Reading: Revelation 5.11-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

The Gospel: John 20.19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you

have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Invitation to the Offering

God gives new life to all that is, including ourselves and all that sustains us.

So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of praise and thanksgiving in response to the God who loves us and frees us!

Prayer Over the Gifts

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected, and ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

O: Holy One, you have made us and redeemed us through Christ to be your kingdom and your priests, serving you and your dominion forever and ever. Help us to be wounded healers who bring your peace into the world.

A: As you sent Christ, now send us.

L: We pray for the church around the world in all its local expressions, that we and our leaders may truly be your kingdom and your priests, serving not ourselves but your glory and your dominion.

A: As you sent Christ, now send us.

L: We pray for those who cannot see you and yet desire to believe.

A: **As you sent Christ, now send us.**

L: We pray for religious and secular authorities who speak truth to power.

A: **As you sent Christ, now send us.**

L: We pray for those who need healing and hope, who cannot see the possibility of new life.

A: **As you sent Christ, now send us.**

L: We pray for those in our world who are wounded, those who suffer from war, oppression, famine, and disease.

A: **As you sent Christ, now send us.**

L: God who is and was and is to be, be for us the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Almighty.
Grant that we might be your forgiveness, your peace, and your resurrecting good news, through Jesus Christ, your faithful witness and our Lord, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of all the kings of the earth.

A: **Amen.**

Blessing

May you be filled with the grace and peace of the God who is and was and is to come, and with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, God's faithful witness, who loves us and sets us free. Amen.

Dismissal

Go to celebrate all that God has done as Christ breathes new life into you, sending you out with the Spirit of forgiveness and faith for the life of the world. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Today's Hymns

CP 231 That Eastertide with Joy Was Bright

- 1 That Easter day with joy was bright:
the sun shone out with fairer light
when to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord.
- 2 His risen flesh with radiance glowed,
his wounded hands and feet he showed;
those scars their solemn witness gave
that Christ was risen from the grave.
- 3 O Jesus, King of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise.
- 4 O Lord of all, with us abide
in this, our joyful Easter-tide;
from ev'ry weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield.

CP 205 The Day of Resurrection

- 1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

374 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus, out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great high priest;
Thou on earth both priests and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus, out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

CP 220 Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen

- 1 Christ is risen, Christ is risen,
tell it with a joyful voice;
Christ has burst his three days' prison:
let the whole wide earth rejoice!
Death is conquered, we are free
Christ has won the victory.
- 2 Come, yea sad and fearful hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow;
Lent's long shadows have departed,
all his woes are over now,
And the Passion that he bore;
sin and pain can vex no more.
- 3 Christ is risen, Christ is risen;
he hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eye shall stream.

CP 239 Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

- 1 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
Can no more, O death, appal us.
Jesus lives! By this we know
Thou, O grace, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

- 2 Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall balm our trembling breath
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!
- 3 Jesus lives! For us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!
- 4 Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from his keeping ever
Alleluia!