



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 26 APRIL 2020

GATHERING

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

My brothers and sisters, join our voices with the church throughout the world, of every people and language, and proclaim the good news: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of holy baptism God liberates us from the power of sin and death, forever joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God's Easter promise of new and everlasting life be renewed in us as we remember and renew the promises of our baptism.

silence for reflection

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the ways of sin, the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them!**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them!**

Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior? **In faith, I turn to Christ.**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For our God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory so that we might have forgiveness of all our sins, and have faith, and hope in Him. The ransom that was paid to free us from sin was not paid in silver or gold, but by the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb without spot or stain. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory! **Blessed be God, forever! Amen!**

GREETING

The grace of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

We sing or speak 'This is the Feast' as we are able.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Let us pray *Silence for reflection*- Let us pray: *Silence for reflection*- Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, help us to see you in your Word and in the faith we share, so that we can walk in new life, in the name of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen**



The Readings Lector: Diane Allison

The first reading is from Acts, the second chapter.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

The second reading is from first Peter, the first chapter.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. The Word of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:17-23

The Gospel is offered

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice, and be glad in it.

Alleluia! We will rejoice, and open our hearts to his saving Word.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter. Read by the Rev. Robert Fisher, Asst to the Bishop

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is

now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of our Lord! **Glory to you, O Christ!**

REFLECTIONS: THE REV. ROBERT FISHER

We say or sing the hymn, ‘What A Friend’, as we are able.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev’rything to God in prayer! | 2 | Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer. |
| 3 | Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he’ll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there. | | |

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

When we were baptized into Christ, we were baptized into His death and resurrection, that we live and walk in new life. Before God, and one another, let us confess the faith of the Church, and the hope that is ours.

Do you renounce the glamour of evil, and the ways that draw you from God?

By the grace of God, I renounce them!

Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior?

In faith, I turn to Christ!

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 into hell.
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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

Pause to give thanks. If you wish, offer thanks out loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online at this time, or your offering envelope can be placed in a basket and mailed. Then continue:

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **C Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Dwell in peace, for Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We sing or speak the hymn, 'Fight the Good Fight' tune: Duke Street, as we are able. .

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3 Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee

POSTLUDE: TOCATA

HYMN TEXT AND LITURGICAL TEXTS USED BY PERMISSION
CCLI #1465937
OneLicense.net #A-711138
A-F #5429-L
Sundays & Seasons #SB125957