

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" Music by William J. Kirkpatrick
Lyrics by Louisa M. R. Stead
Arranged by Marcia Wells

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,
we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.

We come with our questions and doubts,
and listen for Christ to appear in our midst saying:
"Peace be with you."

"Touch me and see who I am" says Jesus:
We look around at the lives of our neighbors and guests,
and seek the power of the risen Christ at work there,
offering peace, offering hope, offering courage, offering transformation.
We are witnesses to the tangible love of Jesus!
Come, let us worship!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death.

Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord. Speak your word of peace to us and let your love shine on any dark areas in our lives. May this worship which we offer in your name be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us. Amen.

HYMN 515 I COME WITH JOY

Brian Wren

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

**The spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known: alive and among us here.**

**Together met, together bound, by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

You have heard what was written about Jesus in Scripture: how he would suffer and die and then rise from the dead on the third day; how, through his death and resurrection, the forgiveness of sin is now possible for all who repent. So let us boldly approach the throne of God, where we will find grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Present God, our lives are filled with distractions big and small. We confess that like the disciples we are easily scared by the unknown. We are overcome with worry about illness, unemployment, our children, and the world as a whole. In our most vulnerable moments we demand that you answer us when we call to you. But often we do not listen for you or seek your unexpected, grace filled presence in our trouble. Forgive us for our demands. Be gracious to us and hear the longing found within our prayers. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Easter People, whose light is found in Jesus our risen Christ, may the light of God's face shine upon us, in all that we say, do, think, feel, and love. We have the light of God within us this day and always!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, may we hear your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 3:12-26

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped

out, ²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. ²²Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. ²³And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' ²⁴And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. ²⁵You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

²**How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

³But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴**When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

⁵Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸**I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

Luke 24:13-32

¹³Now on that same day two of them 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?"

SERMON "What's for Dinner?"

HYMN 254 THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT John Mason Neale

**That Easter Day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light
When, to their longing eyes restore, the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the glorious wounds abide,
the tokens true which made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 533 IN THE SINGING

Shirley Erena Murray

**In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence of your people.
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

**In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people.
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, creator, redeemer, sustainer of all. You made your covenant with us, calling us to love and serve you. When we are wandering in sin you forgive us and lead us home.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lived and died and rose for us, and is coming in glory to reign. Remembering Christ's saving love, we celebrate this holy meal and offer ourselves to you, O God, with gratitude and praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, on your people gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit make us one body in Christ, one in mission and ministry to the world. Nourish us in faith, hope, and love, and strengthen us for service, until we feast with you in glory. All praise and honor and glory are yours, holy triune God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 536 RISE, O CHURCH, LIKE CHRIST ARISEN Susen Palo Cherwien

**Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from the meal of love and grace;
May we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia: God the wonder of our days.**

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;
Broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;
Present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia: Spirit, grace by whom we live.**

**Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;
Mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia, Rise, O church, a living faith.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" by Ludwig Van Beethoven

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