

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Sharon Gray, organist

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APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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!**

WELCOMING SONG

“As We Gather”

**As we gather may Your Spirit work within us
As we gather may we glorify Your name
Knowing well that as our hearts
Begin to worship
We'll be blessed because we came
We'll be blessed because we came**

CCLI Song # 35469 | Mike Fay | Tom Coomes
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GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pg. 140

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

📖 *Almighty God,*

📖 **with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Sarah Groh Correa, soprano

Jeremy Gregoire, piano

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FIRST READING – Marilyn Hunt, reading

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many owned lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reflection

What was the community of believers like? (verse 32) Verse 33 implies that this way of living resulted in "great power." What were the apostles empowered to do? (verse 33) What was the result of this decision on how to live together as far as those who were needy was concerned? (verse 34) How did they manage this? (verse 35) There are stories throughout history of people who tried to live this way. Perhaps one of the most successful was the monastic movement, in which men or women or both decided to live together in community with no one owning property except the monastery. What would be the advantages of such a way of living be? Is there any way in which this way of life could be a model for us, as American Christians?

PSALM 133– led by Phil Lewis

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Reflection

This psalm describes the results of the kind of life the disciples lived, described in our first reading. What is it like when kindred live together in unity? (verse 1) The psalmist uses two metaphors for this. I find it hard, out of my own experience, to appreciate the metaphor in verse 2, although the oil poured on the head of a guest was a sign of hospitality and welcome. The metaphor of dew on the mountains of Zion is easier to understand as a sign of plenty and blessing. (verse 3) When have you felt truly welcome? How can we offer this sense of welcome to guests and to one another?

SECOND READING – Ann Newman, reading

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have communion with us; and truly our communion is with the Father and with Jesus Christ, the Son. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have communion with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as God is indeed in the light, we have communion with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, ²who is the anointing sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reflection

In this epistle, John (the letter writer) describes the life that this early Christian community who lived together in unity and fellowship experienced. Who were they in fellowship with? (verses 1-3) Note that they were not only in fellowship with one another. Who was the source of their fellowship? (verse 3) What was the result of this fellowship? (verse 4) How are faith and joy related? Who is God? (verse 5) What does John mean when talking about "walking in darkness"? What happens when one claims to have fellowship with God but walks in darkness? (verse 6) Can we get ourselves out of the darkness into the light? (verse 7) The metaphor of darkness and light is used throughout the Bible. What does it stand for here? Who helps us if we confess our sins? (verse 9) Is that easy to do? Who helps us? (verse 2:1) How does Jesus help us? (verse 2:2) One of difficulties in understanding this letter is that, unlike Paul's letters, it is not an argument. It reads more like poetry. What do you think?

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

ELW Song #172

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GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When 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 Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing, you may have life in his name.

Reflection

What happens on the evening of the day of Jesus' resurrection? (verse 19) What were Jesus' first words to the disciples? Why do you think he said those words? What then does he do? (verse 20) Why do you think he did that? How did the disciples respond? What commission does Jesus give them? (verse 21) How does he empower them? (verse 22) What does it mean to have the authority to forgive sins? (verse 23) Who was missing from this place? (verse 24) What was his response when the others told him they had seen Jesus? (verse 25) What happens when Jesus appears to them again? (verse 26) What does he say to Thomas? (verse 27) The text doesn't say if Thomas actually touched Jesus' wounds. Thomas says he wants

“proof,” but what does he really need? (verse 28) What does Jesus say about us who do not “see” Jesus? (verse 29) Why did John write this Gospel? (verses 30-31) Why/how do you believe in Jesus? What does the Easter message of Jesus’ resurrection mean to you?

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Liz Jonas

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ELW 815

**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

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PRAYER SONG

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

ELW 752

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

*CCLI Song # 22829 | Ken Medema
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION –led by Nancy & Phil Lewis

David Bezona, Kathy Wessler, Helen Koch (friend of Irene Wall), Alan Dunning, Kay Howard, Keith Hohly, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Dorothy Masteller and Dee Rasmussen

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: David, Kathy, Helen, Alan, Kay, Keith, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Lynn Ann, Keira, Dorothy, Dee and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P *Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

*We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.*

*We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.*

*Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.*

*Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.*

*To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.*

G Amen!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G And also with you!

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

G And also with you.

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G We lift them to the Lord.

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:*

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

☞ Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

☞ *O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.*

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

☞ *Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.*

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

☞ *With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.*

☞ Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

**☞ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial**

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

A Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *Wellspring of joy,*

A *through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!*

BENEDICTION

P *May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.*

The God of life,

*Father, ~~+~~ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

A Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Thine Is the Glory”

ELW 376

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

- Alleluia! Christ is risen.*
- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!*
- Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

Sharon Gray, piano

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Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Kathy Wessler, and Roger Lenander

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

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