

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

PRELUDE

Gaudeamus Pariter

Wayne Wold

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 4*)

P Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God.

C Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

P Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself;

C the Lord will hear when I call to Him.

P In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

C Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord.

P Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"

C Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord.

P I will lie down and sleep in peace,

C for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

OPENING HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from His light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise undying.

For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.
Comes to gladden faithful hearts which with true affection
welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Holy and righteous God, You have raised up this fallen world through Your Son, the Author of Life. Fill us with Your words of life, that freed from the peril of death, we may live in perpetual gladness and eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12-19

¹²When Peter saw [the crowds running toward them], 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 [this crippled man] 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

P Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C "Look at my hands and feet...Touch me and see." Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-48

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶While they were talking about [the Emmaus disciples], Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Joyful Eastertide

This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst His three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
but now has Christ arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber

till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number: *Refrain*

SERMON

"Fish and Scars"

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Lord God, in Your presence we find fullness of joy, and by Christ Jesus You deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world's sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You have made us Your children and gathered us into Your Holy Church. Sustain all who proclaim Your Holy Word and all who serve as Your witnesses. Open our minds to hear and understand Your good and gracious will for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Give peace to our homes and enliven them by the resurrected life of Christ. Let forgiveness reign among families, and provide communities of love and support to those who are alone. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide our elected officials and community leaders in the ways of justice and peace. We pray especially for places torn apart by violence and unrest, that injustice may be rectified and mutual trust be established. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, give Your presence and comfort to those who are troubled in our midst. Comfort all who weep and mourn with the blessed joy of Easter morning. We pray especially for all on our prayer lines and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P These things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

C **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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;

bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;

let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gelobt sei Gott

Michael Burkhardt

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Special thanks to our Minister of Music, Deb Reiss, who also serves as lector in today’s service.

VLC IS READY TO LIVE STREAM WORSHIP!

Please note that, **beginning May 1**, we will be using our newly upgraded video and sound capability to live-stream all of our worship services. The live stream can be accessed through our website (VLC-NY.ORG) or Facebook Live, and will replace the pre-recorded services introduced during the pandemic.

If you are not able to worship in person, you can tune in to one of our live services (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 am) or view an archived copy at a later time. As we emerge from the pandemic, this system will provide an ongoing in-home option whether you are absent for health reasons, bad weather, travel, or the like. It will also allow anyone who is not in the area to take part virtually in our worship and special events such as First Communion, Confirmation and holiday services. Please be sure to alert your friends and family to this new option and invite them to join us any time.

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