

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

PRELUDE

Lasst uns erfreuen

Bernard Reichel

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. 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.**

OPENING HYMN

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through Your triumph;

grant grace sufficient for life's day

that by our lives we truly say:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, grant that we who have joyfully celebrated the Lord's resurrection may, by Your grace, confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

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 as 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

1 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 fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his 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, he 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 him a liar, and his word is not in us. **2** ¹My 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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

P Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

C **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.** (John 6:68)

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O 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 Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;

Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst
until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo;

and in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain

Christ has arisen; He sets us free;

Alleluia, to Him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing;

He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

Refrain

MEDITATION

"Forgive Us Our Sins"

Deacon Student Anton DeRosa

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

P 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Refresh Your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and bring to Your whole creation the gift of new life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of Your love. Bestow the peace of Christ upon our leaders and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Move us by the Spirit to provide for the needs of others. Come near with Your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now... (PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You give us fellowship with one another in this community of faith. 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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, especially our fellow church members Bob and Kevin. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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, 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

The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light
and, list'ning to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

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.

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Special thanks to two of our Deacon Students for their participation in today's service:

Sermon Meditation Anton DeRosa

Lector Larry Cosentino

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