

Sunday, April 23, 2017
Second Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Spiritual"

Richard Purvis

***GATHERING SONG "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"**

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath 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 hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.**

**Now the brightest season dawns
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.**

***GREETING**

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

☩ And also with you.

***KYRIE**

ELW 157

℟ *In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**☩ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

℟ *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

**☩ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

℟ *For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.*

**☩ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

℟ *Help, save, and defend us, O God.*

☩ Amen.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**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 and eternal God,*

**☩ the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the
fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"In the Morning Light"
Stephen Schmidt, piano

Yanni

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Reflection

This text is part of Peter's sermon to the crowd gathered at Pentecost. (verse 14a) According to the story in Acts, this is the first public proclamation of what God has done in Jesus since the resurrection of Jesus. To whom is Peter speaking? (verse 22) What is his explanation of who Jesus is? What has happened to Jesus? (verses 23-24) Peter uses Scripture very familiar to his listeners to tell the good news of Jesus. (verses 25-28 and verse 31 are from Psalm 16) How does Peter identify Jesus as someone to be expected? (verses 29-31) What new thing has God accomplished in Jesus? (verse 32) Notice how Peter put this in context for his audience. If you were going to tell someone the good news about Jesus, what would you say?

PSALM 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

**⁶My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

**⁸I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

**¹⁰For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- |
evermore.

Reflection

This psalm is a song of trust. How does the psalmist express trust in God? (verse 1) What do you think the psalmist means by saying, "I have no good apart from [God]"? Is that true for you as well? Why or why not? How is the psalmist different from those who do not trust in God? (verse 4) How does the psalmist express faith? (verses 5-6) Verses 8-11 are the part of this psalm quoted by Peter in our first reading. Notice that for the psalmist, faith is not just a matter of the correct brain activity. How does the psalmist experience faith bodily? How do you experience and express your faith in God?

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reflection

How has God blessed the community of believers in Christ? (verse 3) What is our inheritance because of Christ? (verse 4) This epistle was written to people whose life was not easy (see verses 5-6) What kinds of difficulty do you imagine they might have gone through? One way to think about this is to identify

some of the difficulties we and all our sisters and brothers in faith go through now. What does the author say about how God uses these difficulties for us? (verse 7) Have you experienced this? How has your faith been tested? What has been the result of such testing for you? See verses 8-9. Does this in any way describe your experience? How are joy, hope, and salvation connected in this text? How are they connected for you?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**☩ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Give the Glory and the Honor to the Lord!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Give the Glory and the Honor to the Lord!**

***GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the 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.”

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 answered him, “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 his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

When does this text begin? Where were the disciples? Who comes to them? (verse 19) What does he say to them? Why do you think his first words to them were to bring them peace? What did he do to convince them that it was truly him? (verse 20) How did the disciples respond then? Has Jesus given up on the disciples? What does he do? (verses 21-23) Who was not with them that time? (verse 24) How did he receive what the other disciples told him? (verse 25) How does Jesus greet Thomas when he next sees him? (verses 26-27) How does Thomas respond? (verse 28) Thomas is one of my favorite characters in the Bible. He is a role model for me in my life of faith. When the bulletin gets printed, what I write is called “Reflections on the Text,” or something like that. When I send them to be printed in the bulletin, they are called “Text Questions.” For me, the text is there to ask questions of—what happens? Who is affected? What does this mean? Even more, the text is there to question me! What do you make of this story? What is God doing in the life of the people of God? Even more, what is God doing in

my life? The questions I ask of the text are meant to lead me (and you!) to hear the questions that the text is asking us about life and faith? So when do you meet the risen Jesus in your life? What does he say to you? How does his presence in your life increase your faith?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Who Is Looking For You?"

Rev. Jim Pierce

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen"

ELW 375

Leader: vs. 1&2 Congregation: refrain and vs. 3&4

Refrain

Alleluia! Christ is arisen.

Bright is the dawning of the Lord's day.

Run, faithful women, to the grave-side.

Marvel, the stone is rolled away!

Hear from the angel, "He is risen."

Christ goes before you all the way. Refrain

Rise, Magdalena, from your weeping;

Christ stands before your very eyes.

Quickly return to the disciples;

bear the good news: "He is alive." Refrain

Gather, disciples, in the evening:

suddenly Christ your Lord appears.

"Look, it is I, your wounded Savior.

Peace be with you, and do not fear." Refrain

Thomas, where were you on that evening?

"I'll not believe unless I see."

Christ comes again, and ev'ry Lord's day:

"Touch me and see; have faith in me." Refrain

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!**

***PRAYER SONG "Open Our Eyes, Lord"**

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement *especially South Sudan and Syria*. Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, and heal the sick *especially Peggy Ann, Dave, Trisha, Louie, Samantha, Bob, Sheylin, Terry, Stephanie, Dorothy, Linda, Scott, Alva*. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face

the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- ℟ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☩ **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Surely the Presence"

Mark Hayes

Praise Team

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE "We Are An Offering"**

**We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you;
we are an offering,
we are and offering.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

- ℟ *Be known to us, O Lord,*
- ☩ **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

- ℟ *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.**

***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:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

G **Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

G **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**

℘ *Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. Hallelujah!*

COMMUNION VIDEO

***BLESSING**

℘ *The body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

☩ **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

℘ *Life-giving God,*

☩ **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

℘ *May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.*

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☩ **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG "Let There Be Praise"**

**Let there be praise,
let there be joy in our hearts.
Sing to the Lord,
Give God the glory. (glory)
Let there be praise,
let there be joy in our hearts.
Forevermore let His love fill the air,
and let there be praise.**

***DISMISSAL**

℘ *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

☩ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

℘ *You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.*

☩ **Thanks be to God!**