

Church of the Divine Love
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PROANAPHORA, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Opening Hymn #174 – **At the Lamb’s high feast**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day – lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 4:32-35**

Psalm 133

Second Lesson: **1 John 1:1-2:2**

Gradual Hymn #205 – **Good Christians all** vs. 1-4

Gospel: **John 20:19-21**

The Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Hymn #465 – **Eternal light**

Nicene Creed page 358

The Lord’s Prayer page 364

The Collects page 100

The Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

Prayer for Strength and Confidence page 459

For the Aged - #49 page 830

For Young Persons - #47 page 829

Prayer of St. Francis - #62 page 833

The General Thanksgiving page 101

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom & Dismissal page 102

Dismissal Hymn #490 – **I want to walk as a child**

Sermon Sunday April 11, 2021

Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1: 1-2:2; John 20: 19-31

Dear people of God,

Let us pray!

Resurrected Lord, you offer Peace and love and acceptance when we are confused and scared and lonely. You offer love from your very life, death and resurrection and you keep coming back to make sure we are still following. Lord, we are beyond grateful for all of this and ask for your help and encouragement to share this story, your story, and our story! May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer! Amen.

Sometimes we experience a thing that goes far beyond what we can comprehend with the coping skills we have on hand. This happens quite often in the information drenched world we live in. This happened as well in the world that Jesus shared with his disciples. We need to experience a thing to get an idea about how to understand it and comprehend its meaning. Come and See; a response you hear a lot in John's Gospel seems to say - this is my experience and I want you to see it and decide for yourself. We see and absorb and file it away for future use, it happened with Philip and Nathaniel - Philip approaches Nathaniel and says, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus' son of Joseph from Nazareth" to which Nathaniel responds - Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip offers his Come and See for Nathaniel to figure out for himself. It happened with the Samaritan woman at the well. "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!" Many believed because of her but they had to experience him for themselves and answer her question of "this couldn't be the Messiah, could it? only after they had spent a few days visiting with him. She offered her Come and See and moved out of the way so they could get to know Jesus too.

Mary, early that morning, had confused Jesus for the gardener and asked him to tell her where they had put her friend's body so she could care for it and did not recognize him until she heard him speak her name, then she shocked the stuffing out of the disciples when she exclaimed, "I have seen the Lord!" John does not say they do not take her word for it, but Jesus shows them his hand and his side and then they rejoiced! Jesus finishes Mary's Come and See with his wounded yet whole resurrected body. In each instance it takes some time and personal experience to fully relate to what is happening. The same thing happens with Thomas as we shall soon see but not before Jesus breathes on them the Spirit of God. Peace be with you! Jesus enters this place of fear and confusion and shares with them what he shares with God and the Spirit, a relationship of love, connection, and joy. Jesus draws them into the peace of knowing and belonging and sends them as he himself has been sent. He then breathes on them the promised Holy Spirit, who he had spoken of just three nights before, which probably feels like a lifetime at this point. He offers the gift of forgiveness and welcome. A newer understanding of the translation helps us see that what first was understood as the ability to withhold forgiveness was the gift of embrace and inclusion of the other. That is much more consistent with the life-giving presence of the crucified and risen one.

Now Thomas enters the scene a week later when Jesus returns to the same room where the disciples are still gathered with the door closed and offers the same greeting, Peace be with You! Directing his attention to Thomas, he invites him to look at and touch his hands and side. Come and See Thomas, it is

I and Thomas believes. Jesus offers his blessing to Thomas's confession but also to our belief, not because we see but because we have heard the words of Scripture told throughout the ages. Jesus comes offering life and the visible evidence of his suffering and death. He keeps coming back and reveals himself to us in the gift of the Good News, written so that we may come to believe and, in our belief, to have new life.

So, what do we do with this wonderful news? We cannot possibly keep it a secret - it is too good not to Share! Come and See Jesus who is alive! Come and See that Jesus has taken away the sting of death and replaced it with life eternal for all who believe. Come and See that we are included in the loving and life-giving relationship of the Triune God! Come and See that this news is too marvelous to keep to ourselves but begs to be shared with anyone who will listen. Jesus died and was raised for you and me and everyone who hears and believes. It is not up to us to tell others they are wrong or missing out. It is up to us to tell our story, to invite them to Come and See the story of our God who is infinitely patient and forever forgiving and extravagantly loving. Then we can say Come and See and invite them into a life beyond their wildest imagination.

Peace that Jesus offers is the same peace that calmed the seas when Jesus and the disciples were caught in a storm. While that might seem to be an alleviation of a threat, it was a transformation and restoration of the relationship between humanity and nature. The peace that Jesus offers is the restoration of God's intentions for creation—the garden before the fall. That peace connotes harmony, abundance, and flourishing. Jesus offers it to them—and to us—so that we might have it and be instruments of it. That we would choose that peace to be our companions in our daily walk and in our purposes and plans. That it would be embedded within us and come out in our responses to the world around us. That peace does not avoid conflict because it sees injustice. That peace refuses to compromise the gospel because it has truly heard the good news. That peace is not afraid of scars because it is known what healing can do. Peace be with you as you do the work of Jesus in the world. Peace be with you as your witness to the love of God for all—and all means all. Peace be with you as you speak up for the marginalized and oppressed. Peace be with you as you love your neighbor as you love yourself. Peace be with you as you pursue the newness of life in Christ. And peace be with you as you embrace the vulnerability and truth in revealing your own scars, because, finally, Jesus speaks these words as a commissioning. Show your scars to let a world know that healing can take place. Show your scars to dispel the shadows that shame often erects to keep us bound. Show your scars to participate in the healing of the world. Show your scars as an identifier and mark of your own resurrected life.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. When you are facing doubts, when you are facing uncertainty, when you are asking, do I really believe or am I just going through the motions, simply act as if you have faith and it will be granted to you. But while you are acting, while you are waiting for faith to be granted to you, my prayer is that the peace of God may be with you. Christ offered that peace to the disciples. He offered that peace to Thomas who had his doubts. And he offers it to us as well.

Today, let us breathe deeply God's presence that inspires, gives life, and invites us to be givers and receivers of God's good news. God will find us. God is with us. God will never let us go. We are God's people. We have news to share, and love to bear, and a world desperate for God's light, hope, and peace. May we live in faith, hope, and love, seeking always to worship and serve God. **AMEN!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

2 EASTER

10:15 AM PROANAPHORA, RITE II
 (also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

3 EASTER

10:15 AM PROANAPHORA, RITE II
 (also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Prayer for Grace and Favor in the New Year:

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed.

We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us.

May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barbara Curran

Dina Palkowski

Frances & Donna Mongelli

Nathan Treadwell

Tyler Gorman

Chris Dickson

Michael Echevarria

Andy

Michael & Family

Martinisi Family

Lois Kessler

Kathleen

Irene

Girard Bishop

Margaret

Bernie Walther

Jerry & Family

Kim

Rachael

Warren

Bill Conklin

Anthony Paribello

Edward Lent

Kate Jones

Del

Children who are ill:

Franklin Tenesaca

Aidan

Christopher and his family

Ciara Berbeck

Gabriel