

Third Sunday of Easter Worship April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Welcome and Announcements

Today we will worship and give glory to God with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

St. Mark's will begin worshipping every week beginning today.

Next week will be the final emailed worship outline and sermon. If you depend on this outline, please let Pastor or Lori know. We will continue the video online worship Sunday morning on or after 9:00am.

P: We begin our worship with Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,

let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *Water may be poured*

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. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us  
with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever. All: Amen

Assistant the First Reading is from : Acts 3:12-19

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] 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 him walk?"

<sup>13</sup>The 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.

<sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,  
<sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.  
<sup>16</sup>And 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.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

<sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

<sup>19</sup>Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Assistant : Using your insert we read responsively Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD.

**<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

**<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.**

**<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

Assistant the Second Reading is from : 1<sup>st</sup> John the third chapter beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

<sup>1</sup>See 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.

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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.

<sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

<sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

<sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

<sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Here end the readings.....

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36b-48

All: Glory to you O Lord

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

<sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look 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.”

<sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

<sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

<sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

<sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then 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.”

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

<sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

<sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

<sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

The Word of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ

### Sermon

For the last two Sunday’s we have heard about Jesus rising from the dead. Post Easter readings. Now that Jesus has risen, we ask ourselves what does this mean?

In the reading of Acts this morning the followers of Jesus also had many questions. The most important questions were “when would Jesus’ return and how they should live their lives during his absence?” The Gospel of Luke attempts to answer the same questions. The author of Luke is the same author as the book of Acts. Luke does not try to provide factual evidence of the resurrection. Instead, Luke points out four ways that Jesus continues to be with us even though he is no longer living in this world.

The first way Luke points out that Jesus is with is when the disciples touch his body. Luke clearly states that Jesus is not a ghost as the disciples first thought. Luke uses the word *pneuma*, the Greek word for breath, spirit, or force, for ghost in this story. Luke stresses the physical reality of the resurrection: Jesus' resurrected body has "*flesh and bones*." Jesus feels hungry and eats a piece of broiled fish "*in their presence*". Jesus' eating before the disciples reveals his physical body and also shows his presence, especially in a situation of hospitality. He is "*in the midst*" of them. We touch his body in Holy Communion.

The second way Jesus comes to his followers is as a stranger. He appeared as a stranger on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24. The followers urge Jesus to stay with them. At the table, he takes bread, gives thanks, breaks it, and gives it to them, just as he did in the feeding of the five thousand "*take a place at table*". Their eyes are finally opened, and they recognize him. Jesus often ate with people, particularly with the marginalized, and was "welcomed" by sinners. Jesus welcomes guests considered the lowest of society. In hospitality to strangers, we encounter the presence of Jesus.

The third way that that Jesus continues to be present is when the disciples are talking about Him. On the road to Emmaus, they were talking about Jesus when he appeared with them. When they talk about their experiences in today's story, Jesus is in their midst saying, "*peace be with you*." Jesus opens their minds to understand the scriptures.

The fourth way that Luke points out the continued presence of Jesus is when He declares to them "*You are witnesses of these things*." Luke highlights repentance for the forgiveness of sins as the followers are witnesses to "*these things*". The Holy Spirit Jesus is going to send will empower them. Both men and women will be empowered to be witnesses on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 when followers are called to be one, together, as followers of Christ called Ecclesia, a body of the faithful.

So here we are. The body of the faithful asking the same questions thousands of years later. When will Jesus' return and what do we do while we wait? Luke tells us to recognize the

presence of Christ Jesus first as a spiritual presence. Luke also tells us secondly to recognize Jesus as the stranger. I can tell you that sometimes the strangers that stop by for help at St. Marks are an encounter with Jesus. Thirdly, when we talk about Jesus He shows up. We weigh our words and look for guidance in prayer, our minds are open to others. Fourthly, we are to witness to the world in our words and deeds. Jesus walks with us when we reach out to help others and invite them into the love of Christ Jesus and the community of Christ Jesus.

Now that we have returned back to worshipping together, I have a question for you? What do you think is the most important part of worship? Some would say “reading the scriptures.” Some who love music would say “the music, the hymns.” Some would say “Holy Communion” and others might say...the sermon although perhaps not as many. There are a few who would say “the offering.” I believe that the answer to the question of “what is the most important part of worship” is....what we do when we leave worship.

Where do we see the spirit of Christ? How do we love the stranger? How do we talk to and pray to Jesus? Are we witnessing to the world the love of God in Christ Jesus? Amen.

#### Assistant Prayers of Intercession

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. Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nation’s hunger, and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Be with those keeping the peace who serve in the military *especially Logan, JJ, Bryan, Dustin, Brad and Travis*.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress *especially those in care facilities that we know Sibyl, Tammy, Trudy, Jessica, Hazel, Jeanne, Linda and*

**Marian.** Grant to those who are sick and suffering, compassion, and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially: ***Brad Shippert and those who are ill with the coronavirus.*** Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of earth and seeds, guard those who farm the land in this springtime of tilling and planting. Keep them safe as they labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us especially those we remember in our hearts. Assure us of the peace you have promised that we may join them in everlasting life.

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.**

P: The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We pray together as Jesus taught The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

P: Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Come, eat and be satisfied.

P: Preface and Words of Institution

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.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Take your bread/cracker                      The body of Christ given for you

Take you juice/wine/water                  The blood of Christ shed for you

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

P: Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, 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.

All: Amen.

P: Blessing

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.

All: Amen.

P: Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!