

Church of the Divine Love

EASTER DAY 2021

PROANAPHORA, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Opening Hymn #179 – **Welcome, happy morning!**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day – lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 10:34-43**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Gradual Hymn #182 – **Christ is alive!**

Gospel: **John 20:1-18**

The Sermon / Welcome Announcements – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

Offertory Hymn #180 – **He is risen**

The Lord's Prayer page 99

A Collect for the Renewal of Life page 100

A Collect for Grace page 100

A Collect for Guidance page 100

Prayer for Mission page 100

The General Thanksgiving page 101

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom page 102

Dismissal page 102

Dismissal Hymn – **"Blessed Assurance"** (see insert)

Sermon Easter Sunday, April 4th, 2021

Acts 10: 34-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; John 20: 1-18

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, of course, is the most important day for us in the year. It is the celebration of the rising of Jesus from the dead. It is the beginning of a whole new way of looking at life and we, as Christians, look upon life no longer through our eyes, but through the eyes of the One who broke through the terror of death and into a new way of being.

Of course, is that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, and His Son so loved his Father and the world that he suffered such a grievous and terrible ordeal as he passed through death into new life. And we must remember that: that nowhere in the world can we say of God that He is short of love. For Jesus, on the cross, now when his whole world collapsed, when everything that he believed in and trusted seemed to fall about his ears, when he said to his Father, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" as that happened, he turned to the screaming mob in front of him and he said, "Father, forgive them."

This is when he becomes our Messiah, not when he does all the wonders, all the healing, all the things that he said, the beautiful things that he has said. It only comes when everything is taken away from him and he is on the edges of despair, and he turns to his Father and says, "I do this for you. I have only one request: that you hold back your arm of justice and, from now on, only forgiveness. "And that is the first great lesson of today, because he is asking us to do the same thing. If we are followers of Jesus, we must hold back justice and offer forgiveness. And, in this way, the world turns around. It is no longer eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, what is right and what is wrong. There is only love, forgiveness, caring. And this is how we enter the new life, following in the footsteps of Jesus, our Lord.

When the disciples went to the tomb, they did not find anything. The tomb was empty, completely gone, an empty tomb. And what are we to think of that? We are to think, "Where is Jesus?" They did not take him away. We know that was impossible. Did his disciples hide him? They were there. They were amazed. They saw the cloth neatly folded. Where did he go? Did he hide? And, of course, we know the answer. He passed from death into new life. And he did not do it, for Jesus never did anything for himself, he did it for us. And so, when he faces the ordeal of his life, with all its difficulties, he accepts them, and forgiving those who have made such an outrage possible. On the other hand, he passes through death not alone but with us, every one of us. He passes through death and gives us a share in the new life that he himself now lives. This is the reason why we are called a church. At the Last Supper, he took bread, knowing that they would never see him again the way he had been with them, and he said, "This is my body which is offered up for you, take this. This is my blood which is poured out for you, take this." Let us live the lives of Resurrection people: Easter gives us the joyful message that we are a Resurrection people. This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement, or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the living Presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives and amid the boredom, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life. We need to live aware of the presence of the Risen Lord with us. Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own coming resurrection, help us to control our thoughts, desires, words, and behavior. This salutary thought inspires us to honor our bodies, keeping them holy, pure, and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the

presence of the Risen Lord in our neighbors and in all those with whom we come into contact should encourage us to respect them, and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.

We need to radiate the Risen Lord all around us: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others through our lives the love, mercy, compassion, and the spirit of self-sacrificing service lived by the Risen Jesus dwelling in our hearts. And in the gift of himself in this form, he said once again, "Whenever you come together, whenever you touch these things, remember it is I. It is I who am with you and I will be with you all days, even to the consummation of the world. "The question then, of course, is, if we enter into the tomb, have we really died? For now, we are in another way of being. We're not talking about physical death. We are talking about what Jesus died for. When we pass through the death of Jesus, we pass through and turn our backs on selfishness, on hurting others, on judging, on making the place that God has created to be a place of great wonder and joy and happiness into a place where many people do not have enough to eat, where many people feel their hopes are dashed each day by the injustices that they have to confront, where many people forget that they were created to walk in this life as children, children free and full of joy. And so, it is when we enter the tomb, we, as Christians, are asked to leave all these things behind and, in the process, we are learning how to love. Not our love. Our love is not worth anything. To love, one with Jesus, the way Jesus loved: to forgive, to care, to reach out to all those around us. And then we, too, experience what Jesus says. He has given us new life. The new life is his life. In his life, there is only forgiveness. And so, we must take that with us on our journey. This gift of yourself was given when you were a child, and someone brought you here and they gave you someone to answer for you. And, of course, it was your baptism. And the meaning of baptism is to pass through the water of death and rise to new life, and to become one with God and one with Jesus, bound together in the Spirit.

In the gospel that we just read, the women came to anoint and bury Jesus and found an empty tomb. They ran to tell the disciples to announce the astounding news. It was a difficult time for everyone. A terrible time. Jesus crucified! The death of all their hopes and dreams, and the shame that they had run away, leaving him to suffer and die alone... except, of course, for his mother and few friends. And yet in his final agony, Jesus was heard to say from the cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." It was to be his final gesture of self-sacrificing love and service to us. The Savior of the World, and we unable to raise a hand to save him. "Lord have mercy on us all."

Today we do not celebrate Jesus rising from the dead to go back to some heaven from where he came. We celebrate something more. Jesus comes to stay. He comes to share his life with ours, not to teach us how to die and leave us, but how to live and love in this often sad and weary world. That is why the Father gives His only Son into our hands, that we might never be alone again, without his loving care. Jesus knows our aches and pains and all our sorrows too, our need to love and to be loved, to reach out and care for one another as he himself has always cared for us. Jesus has promised us "to be with us always" and we will never be alone again. "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

May the Risen Lord be a living experience to you pervading every area of your life, blessing you, strengthening you, inspiring you, guiding you and supporting you in your new way of life! We are meant to be people of joyful hope. If we too discover the risen Jesus, we can all find hope and joy, and go out to share them with others. **AMEN!**

Bishop's Directive – When attending services we are all required to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, sign in with name and phone number for contact tracing purposes, and only sit in pews with decals.

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION-EASTER DAY

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

2 EASTER

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Prayer for Peace and Grace :

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	Marricco Family
Dina Palkowski	Margaret
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Bernie Walther
Nathan Treadwell	Jerry & Family
Tyler Gorman	Kim
Chris Dickson	Rachael
Michael Echevarria	Caesar
Warren	Bill Conklin
Michael & Family	Anthony Paribello
Martinisi Family	Edward Lent
Lois Kessler	Kate Jones
Kathleen	Del
Irene	Girard Bishop
Warren	

Children who are ill:

Franklin Tenesaca	Christopher and his family
Aidan	Ciara Berbeck
	Gabriel

The flowers decorating the alter are given to the glory of
of God; and in loving memory of:

Mary & Andrew Harbolic

Michael Stinson

Blanch & Calvert Johnson

Erica Conklin

John Johnson

Bobby Hosey

Don Croft

Capozzelli Family

Gert & Dick Lush

Mongelli Family

Florence Ellinghaus

Edwin Noel

Betty & Donald Slaight

Shirley Rose

Marcella Kingsley

Roger Croft

Robert Kingsley

Skye Whonder

Hazel Allen Kelley

Golden Family

Aillene & Harold Pullen

Gilbert Family

Brian Curley

Stella Andrews

Adell Gormley

Matt Marricco

Loved Ones of the Goodenough Family

