

Easter Sunday April 4, 2021 Resurrection of Our Lord

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43 A reading from Acts.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good; God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let Israel | now declare, “God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”**

¹⁴The Lord is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord | is exalted! The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not | die, but live, and declare the works | of the Lord.**

¹⁸The Lord indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the | gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.**

²⁰“This is the gate | of the Lord; here the righ- | teous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the Lord has | this been done; / it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the | Lord has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

SECOND READING: First Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from First

Corinthians.

The core of the Christian faith and Paul’s preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

In the joy of the risen Christ, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Brief silence.

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace.

Teach us to appreciate all you have made. Lord, your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill all nations of the world with your peace. Draw together people of all nations, tribes, and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Lord, your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need of your love and care with the hope of your resurrection. Send your presence to be with those who are afraid or unsettled, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve losses especially all those we name now aloud or in our hearts...

Assure all of your promises never to leave or forsake us. Lord, your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Lord, your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise all of our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION: THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of the Holy Trinity: in our gathering; within this meal; and in the many ways you may yourself known to your people throughout the world. May all blessing, praise, and thanks be to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

SENDING

Christ healed many, defeated demons, and taught the disciples to love and serve others.

We are also called to be your hands and feet in the world.

Let us continue the work of Jesus together!

Christ suffered and died so that we may live.

Let us sing praises for the gift of God's grace and forgiveness.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let us rejoice and be glad! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, Mother, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!