

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

### **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. 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. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19**

A reading from Acts

*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."

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

## **PSALM: 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 dishon- | or 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 up- | on 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.**

## **SECOND READING: First John 3:1-7**

A reading from First John.

*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.

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

## **GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:12-18**

The holy gospel according to St Mark, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. <sup>13</sup>And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

<sup>14</sup>Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup>The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

## **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.**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*Pastor:* 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.

*Brief silence.*

*Leader:* 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 we may embody the love of Christ in all that we say and do.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. When we call on you for guidance and strength, answer us with love and with the peace of Christ. Grant your wisdom and lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and grant them health and wholeness especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...

Be close to the hearts of all who need you.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness to all the world.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* 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.**

## **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**

## **BLESSING**

May Almighty God, Father, † 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!**