

# Holy Eucharist

April 7, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3l2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## The Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

### Prelude



*All stand as they are able*

### Opening Hymn

**Tune: Monkland**

*Love's redeeming work is done*



1 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?  
3 Soar we now where Christ has led, fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head;



Death in vain for - bids him rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save, where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?  
made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross, the grave, the skies.



*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*The Presider begins the Collect for Purity*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Glory to God

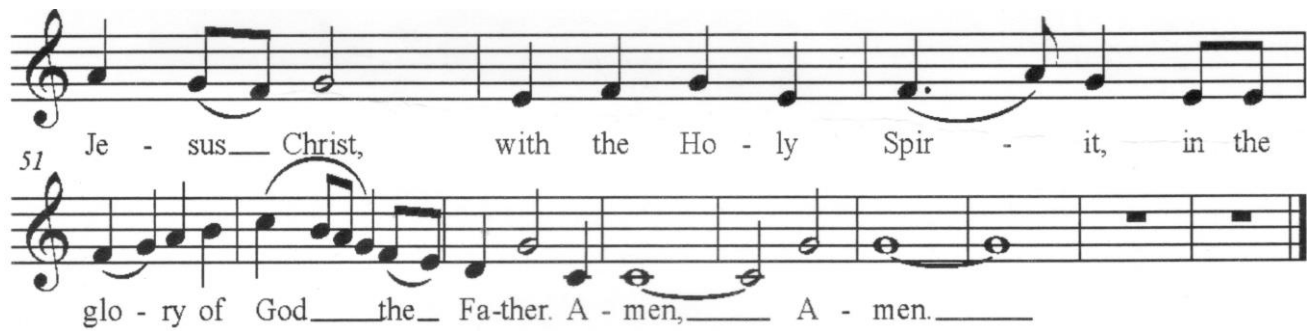
Canticle 20 ♩ = 130

Setting: Doug Howell

*Gloria in excelsis*

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with measure numbers 8, 14, 19, 25, 31, 36, 43, 48, and 48 placed at the start of their respective lines. The lyrics describe the glory of God and the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

8 Glo-ry to God in the high - estand  
14 peace to God's peo - ple, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heavenly  
19 King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
25 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the  
31 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God. You take a - way all the sin of the  
36 world. Have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
43 Fa - ther. Re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the  
48 Ho - ly One. You a - lone are the Lord. You a - lone are the Most High  
48 Ho - ly One. You a - lone are the Lord. You a - lone are the Most High



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## Collect of the Day

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

## First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated*

## Psalm 133

*to be prayed in unison*

<sup>1</sup>**Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \***  
**when brethren live together in unity!**  
<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head \***  
**that runs down upon the beard,**

<sup>3</sup>Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
 and runs down upon the collar of his robe.  
<sup>4</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
 that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
<sup>5</sup>For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
 life for evermore.

## Second Reading

1 John 1:1--2:2

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—  
<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as they are able.*

## Sequence Hymn

*We walk by faith and not by sight*

**Hymnal 209**

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no  
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and  
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near, and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

**Holy Gospel**

John 20:19-31

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

Rob Hampton

*All then stand as they are able.*

## Nicene Creed

*Presider* Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*All remain standing as they are able.*

## Prayers of the People

*Presider* Sisters and brothers, children of God, we join our hearts and voices in praying for ourselves, our neighbors, the church, the world.

*Intercessor* Even as your people, living in your world, as we praise your name, we recognize a twinge of fear and doubt in our hearts. We ask you to manifest your presence in our lives in a tangible and glorious way. We pray to you, **My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for your followers throughout the world, that they have an experience of your love for themselves, and a genuine experience of love with each other. We pray to you, **My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Silence is kept*

We pray for those in authority everywhere, that they are sensitive to the needs of those they serve, that they work to create environments in which integrity, truth, and justice flourish. We pray to you, **My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Silence is kept*

We are abundantly blessed, and we praise you for your goodness and care of us. We are grateful today for [\_\_\_\_\_and] all you so graciously give us. We pray to you, **My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Silence is kept.*

We bring before you those who are on our hearts this day, who are suffering from spiritual or physical pain, who are paralyzed with anxiety and despair. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_. Come into their lives with powerful healing, and into their hearts with words of comfort and peace.

*Silence is kept.*

Hold those dying today close to your heart and welcome them into your eternal light and life. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_. We pray to you, **My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.**

*Presider* Grant, O Lord, that we may so live in the Pascal mystery that the joy of these fifty days may continually strengthen us, and assure us of our salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Presider says to the people*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all

your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.*

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*A Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

*The people are then seated.*

## **Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries**

*In April, we celebrate the birthdays of Kitty, Jan S, Mary G, Michael S, Kathy W, Katherine, David, Ellery, and any others you wish to remember in prayer.*

### ***Prayer for a Birthday***

*BCP p.830*

O God, our times are in your hand,  
**Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *Kitty, Jan S, Mary G, Michael S, Kathy W, Katherine, David, Ellery ...*, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***Prayer for an anniversary***

*BCP p.429*



Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon [all couples]. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen.**

*All then stand as they are able.*

## **Peace**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.*

*The People then are seated.*

## **Announcements**

## **Holy Communion**

I appeal to you, sisters and brothers, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.*

*The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar*

## **Offertory Hymn**

## **Doxology**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*The people remain standing as they are able*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

5  
God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9  
God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24 *molto rit.*  
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

*The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.*

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them **+** by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us **+** also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Presider then continues*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Presider says*

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
**Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

These are the Gifts of God.

**And we are the people of God.**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

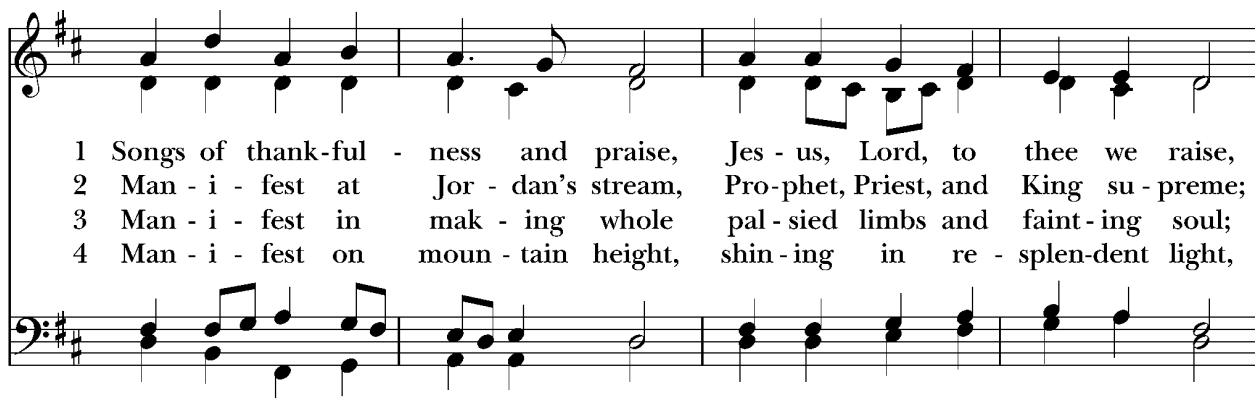
*A priest blesses the people, saying*

Go into the world, and know how much a tired and hurting world needs your strength and gladness. For there are deeds of compassion and courage that will never be done, unless you do them; and words of hope and healing that will never be spoken, unless you speak them.

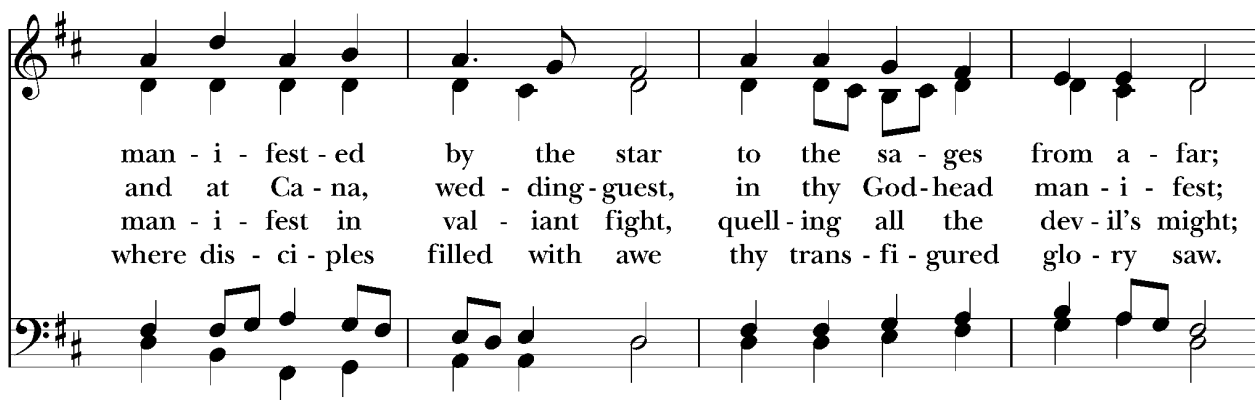
And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Concluding Hymn**  
Songs of thankfulness and praise

**Hymnal 135**



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

**Dismissal**

*Minister* And now, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out with joy and in peace, to love and serve our Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**This week in prayer**

**Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:**

**Our Bishops** Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA) **and for** all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

April 7 The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

**Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:**

April 7 St Paul’s, Jackson; St Michael’s, San Cristobal; St Simons, San Marcos, DR

**St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer:** Mary V, Michael V, Kathy W

**and our continuing prayers for:** Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** is Sunday, **April 21**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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**Upcoming Commemorations**

- April 07 Tikhon, Bishop and Ecumenist, 1925
- 08 William Augustus Muhlenberg, Priest, 1877
- 09 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian, 1945
- 10 William Law, Priest, 1761; and,  
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: Scientist and Military Chaplain, 1955
- 11 George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop, 1878
- 12 Adoniram Judson: Missionary to Burma, 1850

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## Easter 2B April 7, 2024

### **Acts 4:32-35**

What would life be like if we didn't own things? It's a difficult reality to imagine – after all, the very idea that we can and should own things is rooted so deeply into our contemporary Western society and culture that it's very difficult for most of us to imagine that it's possible that things would or could work any differently. Ownership is often presented as a goal or an achievement: owning a home, a car, land, or various possessions – each is a symbol of success and favor. Not all human communities have embraced ownership in this way, however. The early Christian community described here in the Book of Acts is one of them; they decide to eschew private ownership and instead “everything they owned was held in common.” Not only does this enable these early Christians to help the poor and ensure that everyone has what they need, but it also liberated those who once had possessions and chose to sell them from the ways in which ownership makes an idol out of things and distracts us from what really matters: our relationships with God and each other.

- How do members of a community build trust with one another? What do you need in order to trust someone?
- The early Christian community described here took a risk by choosing to live differently than most people around them. What was a time when you took a risk for the sake of the Gospel?
- How would your life be different if you chose to follow the example of the Christian community in Acts?

### **Psalm 133**

While some psalms express anger, frustration, or lament, this one is full of joy and gratitude, specifically for unity. Just like it was in the ancient world, unity can be hard to come by. Sometimes, we are so focused on what we want for our own lives that those individual needs start to eclipse the concerns and needs of the community as a whole. Unity is nearly impossible to achieve when this happens. But when we understand that we need one another, we start to be able to receive the blessing of unity: “life for evermore.”

It's important to make a distinction between *unity* and *uniformity*. The psalmist doesn't suggest that there is no disagreement or difference in this community of brethren who “live together in unity.” In fact, if everyone already thought and acted exactly the same way, there wouldn't be much reason to celebrate unity in the first place! Instead, the psalmist celebrates the joy and the gifts of living among people who understand that they have a responsibility to one another and have chosen to prioritize that over their own self-interests.

- Where are you seeking unity in your own life? What are the barriers keeping you from achieving it?
- Is it possible to celebrate unity while also celebrating differences?
- Where have you seen divisions healed or transformed in your own life, family, or community? What did it take to achieve unity in those situations?

### **1 John 1:1-2:2**

In this passage from 1 John, we see an example of what it means to share one's faith with others. The writer is sharing “the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,” an example

of passing on the Christian faith from one to another. And what is among the most important tenets of the faith to share? That “God is light,” a testament to God’s goodness and power.

We also can see that the author of 1 John is not suggesting that being a Christian means being perfect. No reason to pretend that you are without sin, he says. It’s better to confess your sins so that you can receive forgiveness, but the first step in being forgiven is being honest. Being honest about our mistakes is not always easy, though – especially when we’ve hurt or done harm to someone else. It’s tempting to simply put our heads down and move on as if nothing ever happened. But we know, and God knows, that that is not the truth. And though God doesn’t expect perfection from us, he does expect honesty and integrity.

Though sin is a part of our human lives, none of us is expected to go it alone. Christ is our constant companion and our advocate as we seek to be made whole again. Jesus stands beside us as we courageously tell the truth about our shortcomings and seek to do things differently.

- What does it mean to have integrity? Who in your life would you describe this way?
- Think about a time when you asked someone’s forgiveness. What happened? What emotions did the experience bring up for you?
- In what situations is honesty especially challenging? Who or what strengthens you to do hard things?

**John 20:19-31**

In the verses just prior to these, Mary Magdalene goes to Jesus’ tomb and finds it empty. The resurrected Jesus appears to her. She goes and tells the other disciples what has happened – “I have seen the Lord!” But the disciples are confused and scared. They don’t seem to believe what Mary has to say – or, at least, they don’t act like it. They keep the door locked, the text says, “for fear of the Jews,” a painful reminder to us of what happens when uncertainty morphs into the scapegoating of an entire group of people.

“Doubting” Thomas is not so different from all of the other disciples: he wants proof. When Jesus finally appears to him and asks, “Have you believed because you have seen me?” he is reminding not just Thomas, but *all* of the disciples that none of them believed that he had risen from the dead when Mary Magdalene delivered the news. Jesus does not let them off the hook for this, even though he knows that they are afraid and that the world outside their doors is chaotic and uncertain. Instead, he shows them that they have to learn to trust each other.

- In this passage, Mary Magdalene is not believed when she delivers news of Jesus’ resurrection to the disciples. If you were in Mary’s shoes, what might that have felt like? Have you ever not been believed when you were telling the truth?
- Do Thomas’ doubts make him any less of a disciple? What are some moments of doubt that you’ve experienced in your own journey of faith?

*This Bible study was written by Sarah Neumann*

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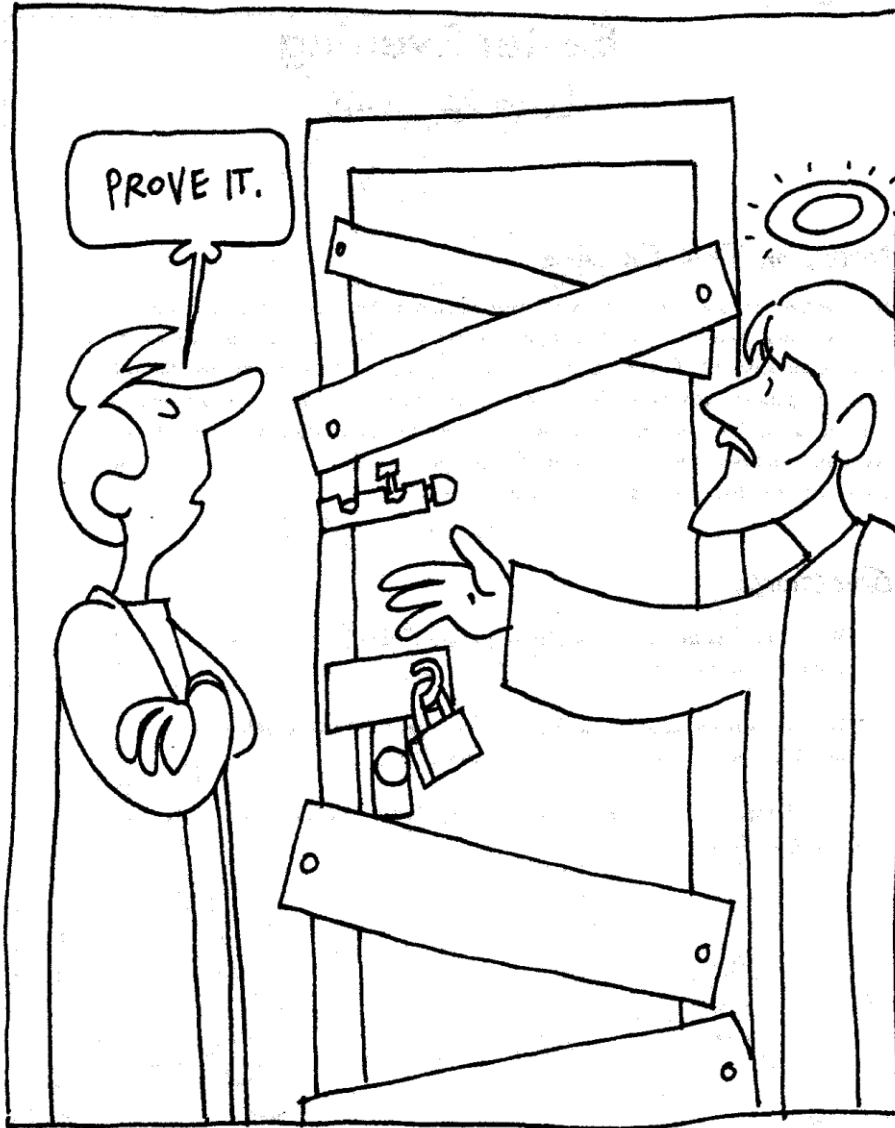
**Opening Hymn text** is found at *Hymnal* #188; **tune Monkland**, is found at *Hymnal* #389

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We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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