

The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Easter Day

March 31, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6cV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Year B



Prelude



All stand as they are able

Opening hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hymnal 207

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

The Presider begins

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

8 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and
 14 peace to God's peo - ple, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heavenly

19 King, Al - might-y— 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 —
 51 Je - sus — Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, — in the
 glo - ry of God — the — Fa - ther. A - men, ——— A - men. ———

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Collect of the Day

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

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and the other Gentiles]: “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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

to be prayed responsively

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
God’s mercy endures for ever.

²**Let Israel now proclaim, ***
“God’s mercy endures for ever!”

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**There is a sound of exultation and victory ***
in the tents of the righteous:

¹⁶“The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”

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

¹⁸The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

¹ ⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness; ***
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the LORD.

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter.”

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

²²The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

**²³This is the LORD's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴On this day the LORD has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

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.

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

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

LEVAS 43

Because He lives

1. God sent His Son, — they called Him Je - sus; — He came to love, —
2. How sweet to hold — a new - born ba - by, — And feel the pride, —
3. And then one day — I'll cross the riv - er; — I'll fight life's fi -

1. — heal, and for - give; — He lived and died — to buy my
 2. — and joy he gives; — But great - er still — the calm as -
 3. - nal war with pain; — And then as death — gives way to

1. par-don, — An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives. —
 2. sur-ance, — This child can face un-cer-tain days be-cause He lives. —
 3. vic-t'ry, — I'll see the lights of glo-ry and I'll know He lives. —

Be-cause He lives — I can face to - mor-row; — Be-cause He lives —

— all fear is gone; — Be - cause I know — He holds the

fu - ture, — And life is worth the liv - ing just be-cause He lives. —

Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

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

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



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

Sermon

Bill Stech

All stand as they are able.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Presider Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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 to the dead.

**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 to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity
of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

A Priest asperges the People, saying

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

The Presider concludes the Renewal of Vows saying

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, + keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, Jesus Christ is risen today, our triumphant holy day. Alleluia! So let us pray to our Lord, saying, “Risen Christ, to you we give undying praise.”

Intercessor Ruler of Heaven, for us you endured the cross and the grave. When we were still sinners, you redeemed and saved us. May we sing your eternal praises everywhere we go. Risen Christ, **To you we give undying praise.**

Silence is kept.

Incarnate Love, where hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, call forth new life by your touch. Bring forth life in the barren places of this world. Risen Christ, **To you we give undying praise.**

Silence is kept.

Author of Life, you are the ruler of creation. All things created on earth sing to your glory. From the death of the winter, raise the fair beauty of earth. Risen Christ, **To you we give undying praise.**

Silence is kept.

Author of Life, you are the ruler of creation. All things created on earth sing to your glory. From the death of the winter, raise the fair beauty of earth. Risen Christ, **To you we give undying praise.**

Silence is kept.

Resurrected One, bring our neighbors from sadness into joy. Where they live in darkness, brighten their lives with a day of splendor and give to all that peace that passes human knowing. We give you thanks and praise [for _____ and] all the blessings of this life.

Triumphant Lord, gladden the faces of all who are sad and fearful-hearted [especially _____]. May they rejoice in your victory over sin and pain—even as they share in your glorious triumph.

Risen Christ, you have opened heaven’s gate. You have freed us from the power of sin and death.

Through your resurrection, you give us the promise of resurrection to a holier state. Bless the dying and the dead [especially _____]. Risen Christ, **To you we give undying praise.**

Silence is kept.

Presider O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The people stand as they are able when 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 heavenly 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.**

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, Almighty God, for you are the Lord of creation and new creation, of covenant and new covenant.

You brought your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land, and you brought your Son from the depth of death to the glory of resurrection life.

And so we gladly thank you, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

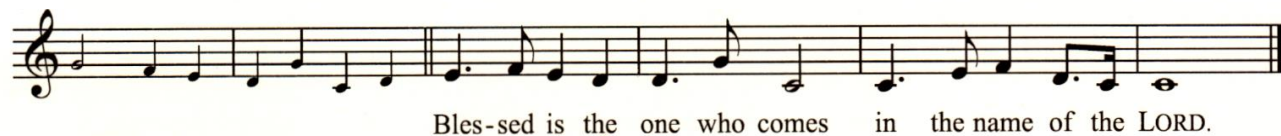
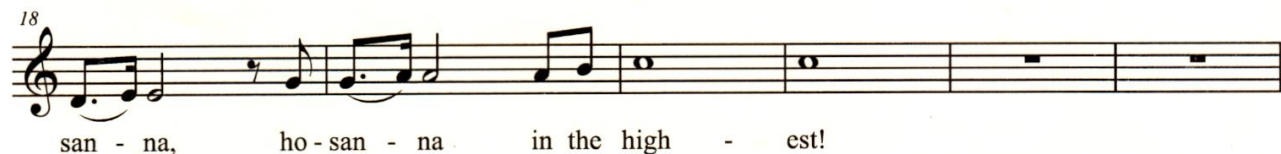
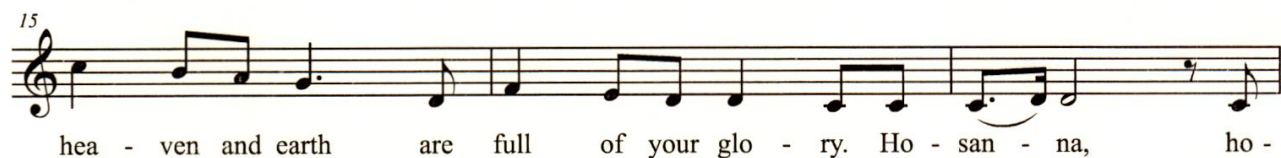
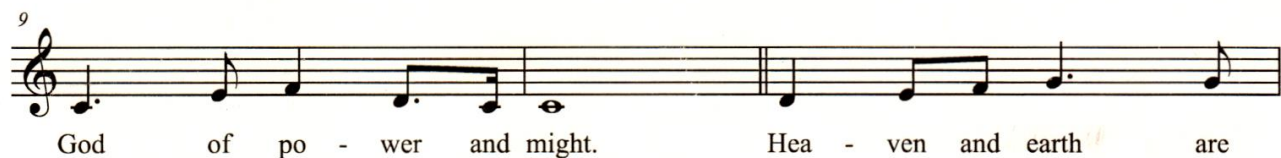
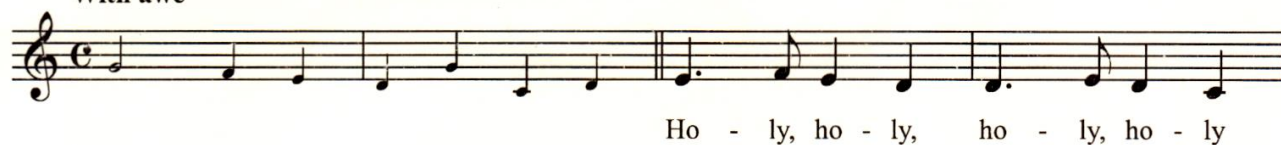
Sanctus

Holy, holy

Setting: **Doug Howell**

$\text{♩} = 70$

With awe



The Presider continues

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you. Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit, that your children may be blessed with power and grace, and that this + bread and cup may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God, for you have rolled away the stone of despair, the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief, the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.

Come and stand among us and breathe on us + your peace, breathe on us your power, breathe on us your eternal life, that all who labor, all who stumble, all who hunger, and all who fall shall meet you in the breaking of the bread and be lifted up by your touch.

Shape your church to be your risen body; make our scars beautiful like your scars, make our lives life-giving like your life, and make our communion holy with your saints, until you come again in glory and we eat with you in your kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.
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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We are here for many different reasons.

Whether we are brimming with faith,
comfortably resting in a moderate pool of faith,
clinging to that tiny speck of faith,
or living with no sense of faith at all...

We are here.

But it doesn't matter why we're here...

It doesn't matter how we're here...

It only matters that we're here.

Because here is a place where we are all welcome.

Here is a place where there are no walls dividing us.

Here is a place where Christ says to each of us,
Take...Eat...Drink...and Remember!

**So let us gather here at this table,
whoever we are, and however we are.**

**Christ welcomes all of us,
because we are all guests,
and because we all need this food.**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

When all who desire have received, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's
Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;**

**that we may proclaim your love
to the world, and continue in
the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Dismissal and Blessing

A Priest says

We are not sent forth into a world
where Christ is absent.
It is God's world and, in it, Christ awaits us.
We go forth to seek and serve Christ
in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.
We go to strive for justice and peace
among all people, respecting the dignity
of every human being.

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

Closing Hymn

LEVAS 42

He lives!

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day;
3. Re-joice, re-joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say;
E - ter - nal hal - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King!

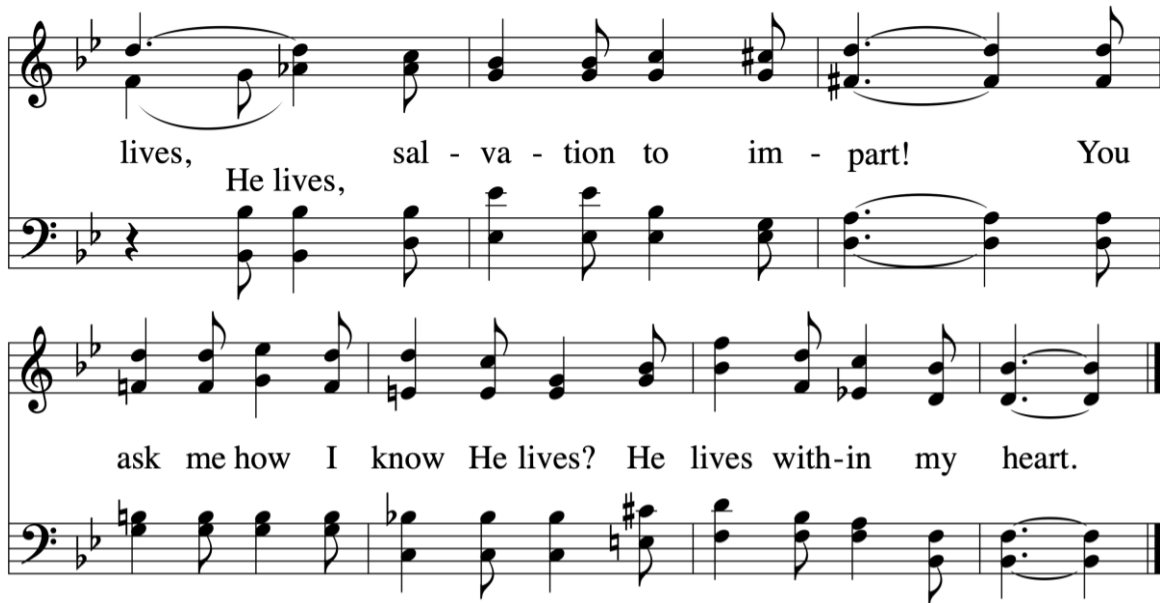
I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer,
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find,

And just the time I need Him He's al - ways near.
None oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives to -
He lives, He lives,

day! He walks with me and talks with me a -

long life's nar - row way. He lives, He lives, He



lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part! You
ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

Minister My brothers and my sisters, go now in joy and peace,
to love and serve our risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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:

March 31 Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

March 31 Church of the Resurrection, Clarkston; Grace Church, Southgate; Church of the Transfiguration, Bani, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: David, Marion, Jan V, Joseph

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

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Faith in Action's top food pantry needs are: Chef Boyardee/Manwich; Coffee/Tea/Drink Mix; Toilet Paper/Paper Towels; Baking Items; Spaghetti Sauce; Canned Soup; Hamburger Helper; Shelf Stable Juice; Snack Items; Cooking Oil/spices; Cleaning products and personal products are always needed. **Please be as generous as you can** at the upcoming Food Ingathering on **April 21**

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Upcoming Commemorations

- March 31 John Donne, Priest and Poet, 1631
- April 01 Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, 1872
- 02 James Lloyd Breck, Priest, 1876
- 03 Richard of Chichester, Bishop, 1253
- 04 Martin Luther King, Jr., Pastor and Martyr, 1968
- 05 Pandita Mary Ramabai: Prophetic Witness & Evangelist in India, 1922
- 06 Daniel G. C. Wu: Priest and Missionary among Chinese Americans, 1956

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Easter Day, Year B March 31, 2024

Acts 10:34-43

This passage is part of the story of Peter and a centurion named Cornelius. Here, Peter is speaking to Cornelius and “his relatives and close friends” (Acts 10:24). Peter and Cornelius come together because both of them have had visions. Cornelius has received a vision leading him to Peter, whereas Peter has had a vision about a new way to interpret laws about what is permitted to eat. Peter’s vision is about whether it is acceptable to include people who do not follow the law of Moses in the fellowship of the followers of Jesus – for example, Cornelius. This is why today’s passage opens thus: “God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” The second part of this passage rehearses the core doctrines about Jesus’ death and resurrection, and Jesus’ role as judge of the living and dead. It is no accident that the Easter message of resurrection and the Easter message about a God that accepts devotion from people “in every nation” belong together. Jesus’ death and resurrection changed the world forever, for everyone, not just people in one place and time, and not just for people

who look, act, or think the same. The criteria are simple, and universal: fear God and do what is right.

- Have you ever, like Cornelius, felt like you were on the outside? If so, how were you welcomed into fellowship? Have ever, like Peter felt like you were on the inside? If so, how might you help welcome someone on the outside into fellowship?

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This psalm includes two familiar verses. Verse 22 is quoted by Jesus in all three synoptic gospels, and is also quoted in Acts and the first letter of Peter. Verse 24 is one of the sentences of Scripture chosen to open Morning Prayer during Easter season. The two verses are linked and together express some of the most fundamental claims of Christianity. The imagery of verse 22 is that of divine reversal, upending human expectation, expanding the horizon of our imaginations. It is meant to remind us of the unlikeliness of Moses as a potential leader, of David, the shepherd not originally included in those presented to Samuel for anointing, and most of all, of Jesus, the humble Galilean. That God sees value where people fail to see value is an evergreen reminder to us to question our assumptions about what (and especially whom) we value and why. Verse 24 collapses time, so that the “today” of the Lord’s action is at once the day of the psalmist, the days of Jesus, the day of the resurrection, and today, here and now. Just as our baptism is mystically linked to both the baptism of Jesus and his death and resurrection, and every Eucharist is mystically linked to the times when Jesus breaks bread in fellowship with his disciples, so is the psalm’s “this day” mystically linked to today. We may join the psalmist in proclaiming that the upending of expectations, the expanding of horizons, and the linking of divine action across time is “the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

- How has God surprised you in your life, upending your expectations or expanding your horizons?
- If resurrection is at once then and now, how might that affect how you act today?

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Biblical scholars date some of the letters ascribed to Paul, including 1 Corinthians, to before the writing of the Gospels as we encounter them today. This suggests that this passage may be one of the first written accounts of Christian belief about the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is important because neither Paul nor the Corinthians had an agreed-upon canon of Scripture about Jesus. All they had were stories and sayings passed from one person to the next, from one community to the next. Without a book, without church buildings as we know them today, and without structures of ministry, people either believed what they heard or not. In this context, both the beginning and end of this passage give us clues as to why, according to Paul, the Good News survives and spreads. In verse 1, Paul reminds his readers that he proclaimed the Good News to them, but then we note that there is a second step in the process: his readers received the Good News in turn. This means that it’s not just about proclamation. There is something that happens in the hearts of the hearers, there is a reception that is between them and God, distinct from the proclaimer. Likewise, at the end of the passage, Paul makes no distinction between himself and the other apostles when it comes to the truth of the Good News. The message has its own authority, and its conveyance is in an important sense first and foremost because of the grace of God.

- How do you proclaim the Good News in your life?
- How does the grace of God affect what you believe?

John 20:1-18

Mary Magdalene is revered as the “apostle to the apostles,” because she is the first to recognize the resurrected Jesus, and in turn to proclaim this miracle to other disciples. With all due respect to Peter and the other disciple, the writer of this gospel presents us a sharp contrast between their behavior and that of Mary. Mary is the first to the tomb, and the first to tell Peter and the other disciple. When Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb, they see what is there, and then they return to their homes. But Mary remains. There is something here that the writer is suggesting about the time and focus it can sometimes take to receive revelation. Mary takes the time to come to the tomb in the first place, takes the time to consult with others, takes the time on her own to feel her grief as she stands weeping. It is because she has taken this time that she is there to meet the angels. We are not told how she reacts to the fact that they are angels. Her response to them remains completely focused on Jesus. She then takes the time to converse with the person whom she takes to be the gardener. She is, even then, ready to take more time to learn where the gardener has supposedly taken Jesus’ body and to take the body away to provide a proper burial. Throughout this, Mary has devoted her time and focus to Jesus, and it is our tradition that all Christians have Mary’s devotion to thank for the beginning of the spread of the Good News, for the beginning of the celebration of Easter.

- What practices do you have (or might you develop) to set aside time and focus in your life to devote to Jesus?
- Proclamation of God’s work takes courage; it is easy to be afraid of being seen as foolish. Where do you find your courage to proclaim the Good News?

This Bible study was written by Philip Lienau.

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Our Mission:

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.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

A Community of Ministers

20500 W Old US-12

Chelsea MI 48118

stbarnabaschelsea.org