



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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The Second Sunday of Easter - 11 April 2021

WELCOME to St. Peter's Church. We are glad you are here! *The clergy and laity welcome all joining us for worship this morning in the Name of Christ. If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy and sign our guest book and give us a chance to get to know you. Please, join us in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward to the communion rail, stand or kneel to receive the bread in your hand. If you wish to receive only a blessing, cross your hands over your heart and the Priest will bless you.*

Mission Statement: *We are an inclusive, forward-looking Episcopal parish that seeks to grow in Christ through worship, education and fellowship, serves Christ by ministering to local and global communities and shares Christ in following His command to "Love one another as I have loved you."* **Vision Statement:** *Our vision at St. Peter's is to be an inclusive, vibrant Christian community honoring our Episcopal heritage by achieving excellence in worship, mission, education and fellowship.*

[Silence for prayer and preparation] [* indicates all standing - + indicates all kneeling - **indicates all sitting]

Prelude

*Hymn 192 *This joyful Eastertide*

Vreuchten

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 S280 **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Collect of the Day **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.**

+ We Listen To The Word Of God + [please be seated]

**First Reading - Acts 4:32-35

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

**Psalm 133

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

**Second Reading – 1 John 1:1-2:2

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—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—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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

*Hymn 208

The strife is o'er

Victory

*The Gospel - John 20:19-31 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

[following the reading] The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Joseph Dietz

[Following the sermon, please observe a few moments of silence]

*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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

+ Prayers of the People + *[kneeling]*

+ Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; ***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; Rodney, our Assisting Bishop; for this gathering; for all ministers, especially Sam our Rector; David, our retired priest, Joseph, our Deacon, and for all people; ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, remembering Joseph, the President of our nation, Antonio, the Secretary General of the UN, Tom, the Governor of our Commonwealth and the men and women who are serving in our armed forces. Pray for all those who struggle for freedom and justice around the world; ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake. Pray for our pantry, clinic and outreach ministries in their work in our neighborhood. Pray for our mission work through Cristosal Foundation in Central America. Pray for those in any need or trouble. ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; remembering ***John, Pat, Harland, Peter, Liz, Dave, Laura, Shawn, Joan, Vernet, Greg and Lou.*** ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest; remembering especially Albert Thornton. ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. I ask your thanksgiving for Erin Hall, Trey Foerster, Rebecca Martz, Amy Atlee, Adam Schaefer, Desiree Hatton, and Amy Foerster who celebrate birthdays this week; Ron and Georgette Druckenmiller who celebrate a wedding anniversary this week. **Grant that they may continue to experience your love and guidance in the years to come.**

[The celebrant adds a concluding collect]

The Peace *[All stand facing center aisle]* *[please be seated following the peace]*
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory *Impromptu for Eastertide*

Derek Maninfor

Hymn 380 vs. 3 **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

+ We Share Holy Communion +

***The Great Thanksgiving** *[The people remain standing.]*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

+ 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.**

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Christ our Passover **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

+The Communion of the People

Hymn 190 *Lift your voice rejoicing*

Fisk of Gloucester

+Post Communion Prayer Let us pray. ***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.***

+ God Sends Us To Love and Serve Each Other +

+The Blessing

**Announcements

*Hymn 191 *Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heaven-ward raise*

Lux eoi

*Dismissal

Postlude

+ + + + + + + + + + + +

Intercessions This Week - Please pray: • For those who are sick, or in any other adversity, John Burkhardt, Pat Howse, Harland Johnson, Peter Fifer, Liz Fifer, Laura, Shawn, Joan Grunwell, Vernet Spence-Brown, Greg Schiele, Deacon Lou Steffenhagen • For the men and women who are serving in our armed forces. • For those with whom we give thanks, Erin Hall, Trey Foerster, Rebecca Martz, Amy Atlee, Adam Schaefer, Desiree Hatton, and Amy Foerster who celebrate birthdays this week; Ron and Georgette Druckenmiller who celebrate a wedding anniversary this week.. • For all who have died, especially Albert Thornton.

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