



2nd Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024

Opening Hymn #204
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness.
'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst His prison
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen.
2. All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From His light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying.
Neither could the gates of death
Nor the tomb's dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal
Hold Thee as a mortal.
3. But today amidst Thine own
Thou didst stand, bestowing
That Thy peace which evermore
Passeth human knowing.
Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness.

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Acts 4:32-35

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 148

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Antiphon – At the works of Your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the | heavens;*

praise him | in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his | angels;*

praise him, | all his hosts!

3 Praise him, | sun and moon,*

praise him, all you | shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest | heavens,*

and you waters above the | heavens!

5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD!*

For he commanded and they were cre- | ated.

6 And he established them forever and | ever;*

he gave a decree, and it shall not | pass away.

7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,*

you great sea creatures and | all deeps,

8 fire and hail, | snow and mist,*

stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!

9 Mountains and | all hills,*

fruit trees and all | cedars!

10 Beasts and all | livestock,*

creeping things and | flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all | peoples,*

princes and all rulers | of the earth!

12 Young men and maidens to- | gether,*

old men and | children!

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is
ex- | alted;*

his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise
for | all his saints,*

**for the people of Israel who are near to him. | Praise the
LORD!**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

*Antiphon – At the works of Your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in
song; I sing for joy.*

The Second Lesson – 1 John 1:1-2:2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which
we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have

touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.¹My 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.²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Gospel – John 20:19:31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said

to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – The Nicene Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth

And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

**begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;**

Who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day #208 (v. 1, 4-8)
Ye Sons and Daughters of the King

1. Ye sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave hath lost its sting:
Alleluia!

4. That night the Apostles met in fear,
Amidst them came their Lord most dear
And said: "Peace be unto you here":
Alleluia!

5. When Thomas afterwards had heard
That Jesus had fulfilled His word,

He doubted if it were the Lord:

Alleluia!

6. "Thomas, behold My side," saith He,
"My hands, My feet, My body, see;
"And doubt not, but believe in Me":

Alleluia!

7. No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried:

Alleluia!

8. Blessed are they that have not seen
And yet whose faith hath constant been,
In life eternal they shall reign:

Alleluia!

Sermon Text – 1 John 1:1-2:2

Sermon

The Risen Christ Breathes His Peace in the Holy Absolution

Offertory – sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, Your Son is the firstborn from the dead. In Him, we have been reborn into a new and living hope. Nurture us with the pure milk of Your Word, that we may grow to maturity of faith and have everlasting life.

He is arisen! Glorious Word!

P: Grant to those ordained for Your service the gift of the Spirit, wisdom that comes down from above, and grace to faithfully fulfill their holy calling where You have placed them.

Now reconciled is God, my Lord;

P: As Your people are united in the common life and love of our Savior, grant that we would share that life and love with those in need.

The gates of heav'n are open.

P: Build up the households of Your people, that Your holy children, begotten in Baptism, may grow in Your grace and share together in Your forgiveness and life.

My Jesus did triumphant die,

P: You have instituted authorities to carry out Your justice. Bless all who make, administer and judge the laws of our land. Give them wisdom, integrity and honor to serve according to Your good will.

And Satan's arrows broken lie,

P: As Your Son's wounds brought gladness and peace to the troubled disciples, give Your presence and comfort to the troubled in our midst [*especially* _____]. Comfort also those who weep [*especially* _____] with the blessed joy of Easter morning.

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

P: Father of the risen Christ, You give us the crucified and risen body and blood of our Lord in this Holy Supper. Let us taste that the Lord is good and continually grow up unto salvation.

Oh, hear what cheer!

Christ victorious

Rising glorious,

Life is giving.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that out of Your indescribable grace, for the sake of Your Son, You have given us

the Holy Gospel and instituted the blessed Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, until at last we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

He was dead but now is living!

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...

(the appropriate Preface is read)

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav'n and



earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -



san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly



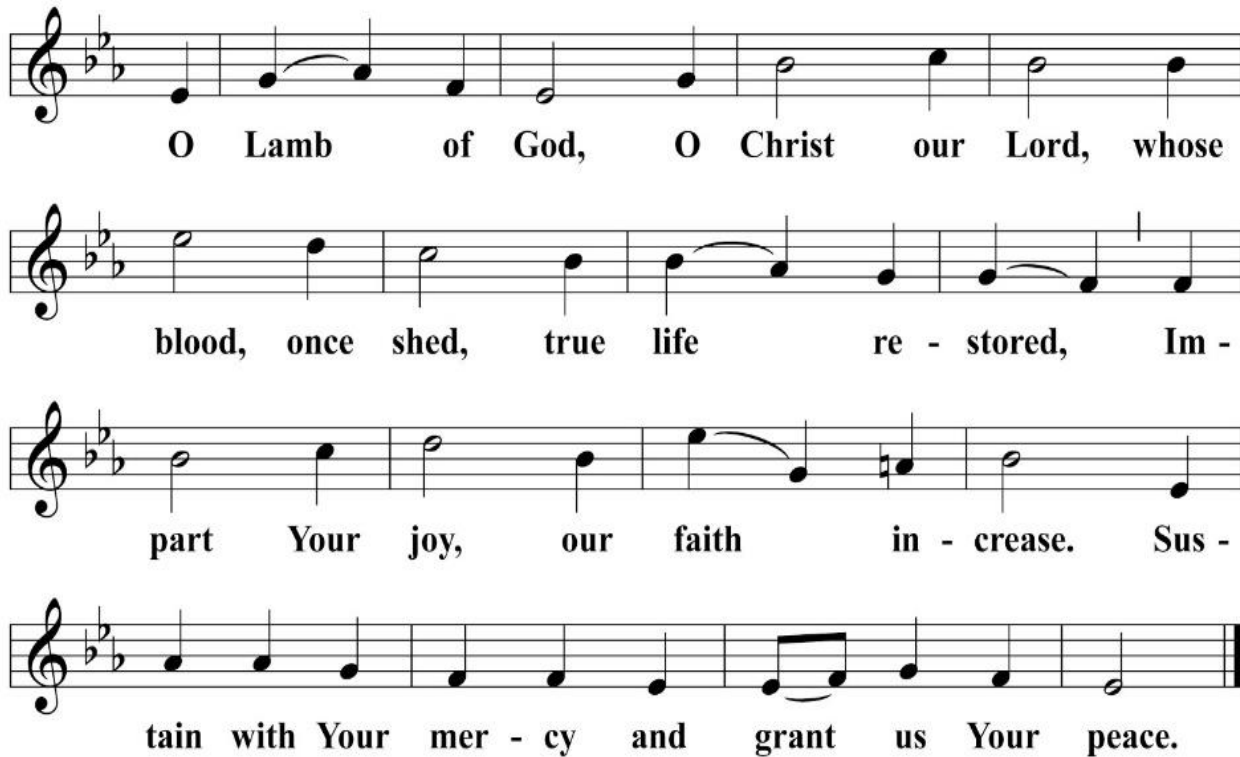
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Distribution

Nunc Dimittis - sing

1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #210

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!

2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath His foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Alleluia!

3. On the third morn He rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain!
Alleluia!

4. He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell.
Let songs of praise His triumph tell.
Alleluia!

5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee.
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Alleluia!

Silent Prayer

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