

**SAINTS MARTHA & MARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**A SHARED MINISTRY CONGREGATION**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MORNING PRAYER AND GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP**

**RITE 2**

**THE REVEREND FAITH PERRIZO**



**APRIL 19, 2020**

## GREETING & WELCOME

*Presider*

We praise the Lord our God for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, for by his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, he has won for us everlasting life.

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

## OPENING PRAYER

*The Presider says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together (virtually) in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us pray briefly in silence.

*Pause for prayer*

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Presider* Lord, open our lips.

*People* *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Presider and People*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

*Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed; Come let us adore him. Alleluia!*

## CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

*Presider and People*

*Alleluia.*

*Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;*

*Therefore let us keep the feast,*

*Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,*

*But with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.*

*Christ, being raised from the dead will never die again;*

*Death no longer has dominion over him.*

*The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;*

*But the life he lives, he lives to God.*

*So also consider yourselves dead to sin,*

*And alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.*

*Christ has been raised from the dead,  
The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death,  
By a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die,  
So also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....ACTS 2:14A, 22-32**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

*'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

*'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'*

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

**PSALM.....PSALM 16**

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**THE SECOND LESSON.....1 PETER 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**CANTICLE: A SONG TO THE LAMB**

*Presider and People*

*Splendor and honor and kingly power  
Are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is,  
And by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation,  
A kingdom of priests to serve our God.*

*And so, to him who sits upon the throne,  
And to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,  
Forever and for evermore.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL.....JOHN 20:19-31**

*Presider*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*                *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.

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

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Presider*  
Most merciful God, as we come to you in this time of anxiety and uncertainty, we also come in a time when the Church affirms the victory of God over evil and death. As we experience sorrows of our heart and mind, we beseech you to fill us with the joy and peace that passes all understanding. Cast away all works of darkness. Be our rock, a castle to keep us safe. For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense, and he is and will be our Savior.

*Presider and People responsively*

For those directly infected with the virus: help them recover in good health and restore them in body, mind and spirit.  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those at high risk of infection, especially the elderly, those with underlying illnesses, the marginalized, and the poor: keep them healthy and free from all sickness.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those in quarantine, the shut-in, and the infirmed: help them find peace, keep them in good health, and renew their mind and spirit.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who have died: receive them into the arms of your mercy, grant them eternal peace, and surround those who mourn with your healing grace.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all hospitals, doctors, nurses, and staff: protect them as they minister to the sick, relieve all stress, and comfort the dying.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For first responders: guard them from all harm, and grant them strength and courage as they respond to all calls for help.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For service industry workers and those forced to work as their community is shut down: keep them healthy, bestow the resources to best care for themselves and their families, and assure them in times of financial and medical anxiety.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the leaders of this nation and the world: help them make sound and safe decisions to best secure the future of our planet.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all schools, students, teachers, administrators and school staff: as schools remain closed, instill in our students a desire to learn and explore new ideas, feed those who will go hungry without guaranteed meals and shelter all students have no place to live.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all scientists and those working to find a cure: inspire them towards your truth, and help them discover and disseminate a vaccine and cure.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all media and journalists: protect them from all harm in their reporting, and move them to be a vector of truth and certainty, and never fear or panic.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all places of worship: embolden them to be beacons of hope and love, and help us to gather however and wherever we can – be it in person or online – to give you praise. Fortify our leaders to be faithful pastors, to persevere in prayer, and to build up the family of God in new and creative ways.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the young: spare them from harm and fear, and keep them a joyful sign of your love and light. And for all parents: build in them strength and fortitude for the time ahead, and give them the words and witness to be wise counselors and compassionate caregivers.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Stir up in us a spirit of compassion and tenacity as the time of quarantine extends indefinitely.  
*Amen.*

Move us to share our resources and extend a helping hand to those in need.  
*Amen.*

Inspire us to share the Good News of your love and hope.  
*Amen.*

All this we ask through your son Jesus Christ our Lord, risen and alive, Giver of grace and hope.

*Amen.*

*(edited from a litany by Michael Kurth)*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Presider and People together*

We are not alone.

We believe in God:  
who has created  
and is creating,  
who has come to Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us  
and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death,  
in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Presider says to the people*

It is the general practice of the Episcopal Church to omit the Confession during the Season of Easter in recognition that through the acts of Jesus on our behalf, we have been given the gift and grace of forgiveness of sins. Let us, then, join together in the words our Lord Jesus taught us to pray.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider and People together*

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

## GOSPEL DISCUSSION

### PRAYERS

*Presider and People pray responsively*

<i>Presider</i>	Show us your mercy, O Lord;
<i>People</i>	And grant us your salvation.
<i>Presider</i>	Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
<i>People</i>	Let your people sing with joy.
<i>Presider</i>	Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
<i>People</i>	For only in you can we live in safety.
<i>Presider</i>	Lord, keep this nation under your care;
<i>People</i>	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
<i>Presider</i>	Let your way be known upon earth;
<i>People</i>	Your saving health among all nations.
<i>Presider</i>	Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
<i>People</i>	Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
<i>Presider</i>	Create in us clean hearts, O God;
<i>People</i>	And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

## THE COLLECTS

*Presider*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Presider*

O God, you have made of one blood all the people of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near; Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## WORD AS SACRAMENT

*Priest/Officiant*

Lord God, on this day when we are not able to gather together in front of your altar and share together in the sacrament of bread and wine, we remember that Saint Alphonsus once said this:

*"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things., and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."*

In that spirit of remembrance, we recall the words and actions that You gave to us when You were gathered with your disciples at the Passover meal:

*"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Take. Eat. This is my body.' Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ' Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' "* Matthew 26:26-28

*Pause for a moment of silent reflection*

*Officiant and People*

*Eternal God, Heavenly Father,  
You have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
You fill us wholly with your grace.  
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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **FINAL BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Romans 15:13

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**