

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 16 APRIL 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Adagio from the Organ Sonata No. 4 Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788)

HYMN 205

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia, our triumphant holy day, Alleluia, who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia, suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia, unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia, who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia, sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.
- ³ But the pains that he endured Alleluia, our salvation have procured; Alleluia, now above the sky he's King, Alleluia, where the angels ever sing Alleluia.

GREETING

In the name of the living God: Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you and also with you.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.

CONFESSION

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

COLLECT

The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LESSON

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ... ²² '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—²³ 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.²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.²⁵ 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; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 29 '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. ³⁰ 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.³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EASTER ANTHEMS

Preserve / me O / God: for in / you · have I / taken / refuge.

- I have said to the Lord / 'You are / my lord: and all my / good de-/-pends on / you.'
- As for those who are held / holy · on the / earth: the other / gods · in whom / men de-/-light,
- Though the idols are many that / men run / after: their offerings of blood I will not offer * nor take their / name up-/-on my / lips.
- The Lord is my appointed portion / and my / cup: you / hold my / lot · in your / hands.
- The share that has fallen to me is in / pleasant / places: and a fair / land is / my pos-/-session.
- I will bless the Lord who has / given · me / counsel: at night also / he · has in-/-structed · my / heart.
- I have set the Lord / always · be-/-fore me: he is at my right / hand · and I / shall not / fall.
- + Therefore my heart is glad and my / spirit · re-/-joices: my flesh / also · shall / rest se-/-cure.
- For you will not give me over to the / power of / death: nor suffer your / faithful one · to / see the / Pit.

You will show me the / path of / life: in your presence is the fullness of joy * and from your right hand flow de-/-lights for / ever-/-more. Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son: and / to the / Holy / Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and / ever / shall be: world without / end./ A-/-men.

LESSON

A reading from the First Letter of Peter:

³ 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ 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 honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 204

- If Christ had not been raised from death our faith would be in vain, our preaching but a waste of breath, our sin and guilt remain.
 But now the Lord is risen indeed; he rules in earth and heaven: his gospel meets a world of need in Christ we are forgiven.
- 2 If Christ still lay within the tomb then death would be the end,

1 Peter 1:3-9

and we should face our final doom with neither guide nor friend. But now the Saviour is raised up, so when a Christian dies we mourn, yet look to God in hope in Christ the saints arise!

If Christ had not been truly raised his Church would live a lie; his name should nevermore be praised, his words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives; through him we are restored: his word endures, his Church revives in Christ, our risen Lord.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When 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.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.' ²⁶ 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.' ²⁷ 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.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ 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.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The appointed preacher offers a sermon.

CREED

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 from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

INTERCESSIONS

A member of the congregation offers prayers.

PEACE

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you, **and also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 221

- 1 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem, your sweetest notes employ, the Paschal victory to hymn in strains of holy joy.
- 2 How Judah's Lion burst his chains, and crushed the serpent's head; and brought with him, from death's domains, the long-imprisoned dead.
- 3 From hell's devouring jaws the prey alone our Leader bore;

his ransomed hosts pursue their way where he hath gone before.

- 4 Triumphant in his glory now his sceptre ruleth all, earth, heaven, and hell before him bow, and at his footstool fall.
- 5 While joyful thus his praise we sing, his mercy we implore, into his palace bright to bring and keep us evermore.
- 6 All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son, all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee, while endless ages run.

Alleluia! Amen.

EUCHARIST

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

Eucharistic Prayer A

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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.]

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you 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, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.** The celebrant distributes communion.

ANTHEM

Christians Shout for Joy and Gladness Johann Sebastian Bach (1688-1750)

Christians, shout for Joy and gladness, Cast away all fear and sadness: Jesus, Prince of love and might, Endless life has brought to light, He has broken death's dark prison And from out the grave has risen. Alleluia, alleluia.

HYMN 435

- Christian people raise your song, chase away all grieving; sing your joy and be made strong, our Lord's life receiving; nature's gifts of wheat and vine now are set before us: as we offer bread and wine Christ comes to restore us.
- 2 Come to welcome Christ today, God's great revelation; he has pioneered the way of the new creation. Greet him, Christ our risen King gladly recognizing, as with joy we greet the spring out of winter rising.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 211

 Now is eternal life, If ris'n with Christ we stand, in him to life reborn, and held within his hand; no more we fear death's ancient dread, in Christ arisen from the dead.

- 2 Man long in bondage lay, brooding o'er life's brief span; was it, O God, for naught, for naught thou madest man? Thou art our hope, our vital breath; shall hope undying end in death?
- And God, the living God, stooped down to man's estate; by death destroying death, Christ opened wide life's gate: He lives, who died; he reigns on high; who lives in him shall never die.
- 4 Unfathomed love divine, reign thou within my heart; from thee nor depth nor height, nor life nor death can part; my life is hid in God with thee, now and through all eternity.

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Allegro from the Organ Sonata No. 3 Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788)

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TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are taking a collection during all of the services in the church building through the offering plate and through a tap and pay card reading system at the back of the church. PayPal and standing orders are also possible through our website or by contacting the church Treasurer. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.