

# **A Service of Song, Scripture, Prayer, and Promise**

*Third Sunday of Easter-April 18, 2021*

**Welcome Friends!**



*Almond Blossoms*  
Vincent van Gogh

**Opening Hymn** *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing*—(Omit vs. 2) H205

## **Opening Acclamation**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:11

## **Opening Collect**

God of order and dynamic change  
Mysterious God, whose imagination and desire  
embrace all: We seek to discern you in the  
interplay of forces, in the order and chaos of  
the universe, and in the complexities of every  
living system. Give us grace to honor your  
goodness in what we know and in what we do

not know, in the world's harmonies and turbulence, and in its promise of change. For you are in, through, and beyond all that is: One God, made known to us in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, our inspiration and guide. **Amen**

*From: Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation: The Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music.*

## **Scripture**

*Lector:* A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 4

*Cum invocarem*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 **"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?"**
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 **Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 **Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better  
times!" Lift up the light of your countenance upon  
us, O LORD.**
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 **I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*  
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

*Lector:* A reading from First John.

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the  
People **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn** *That Easter Day with joy was bright* H193

## **Gospel**

*Lector:* A reading from the gospel of Luke.

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be

proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Homily**

### **Prayers of the People**

Today we shout Alleluia, for what was dead lives; what was dark shines; what was forgotten is remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us!

With great confidence in Christ's eternal presence let us bring before God the needs of all our world, grateful for our Savior's renewal, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of life, with gratitude and great joy we thank you and praise you for the gift of Christ's resurrection. On this day of greatest blessing, give all the people of this world hope-both those who know Christ and those who do not yet know him, that all may experience Christ's healing presence; In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

On this glorious Sabbath day which brings joy to all Christian believers, let us commit ourselves to work for the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one and work together for the good of all; In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

Honoring the gift of Christ's resurrection, may we rise to serve all who need his saving help, including those whose struggles prevent them from seeing themselves as God's beloved children; In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For all who need of the gift of Easter with its promise of new life; for all journeying from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; and for those we name now, silently or aloud....In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For all who suffer and all who mourn, we pray that the Lord God will wipe away all tears as God promised. In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May this community here gathered have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we grow together to be God's sign of life in our world-may we stretch out our arms to our neighbors in love just as Christ stretched out his arms upon the cross for love of us; In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May all who have died be received at your heavenly banquet and may we who remain behind grow in your likeness until reunited with them and with you in glory forever. In the name of our risen Christ we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

### *Closing Collect*

Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. Amen.

### **Closing Song**

*The strife is O'er*

H208

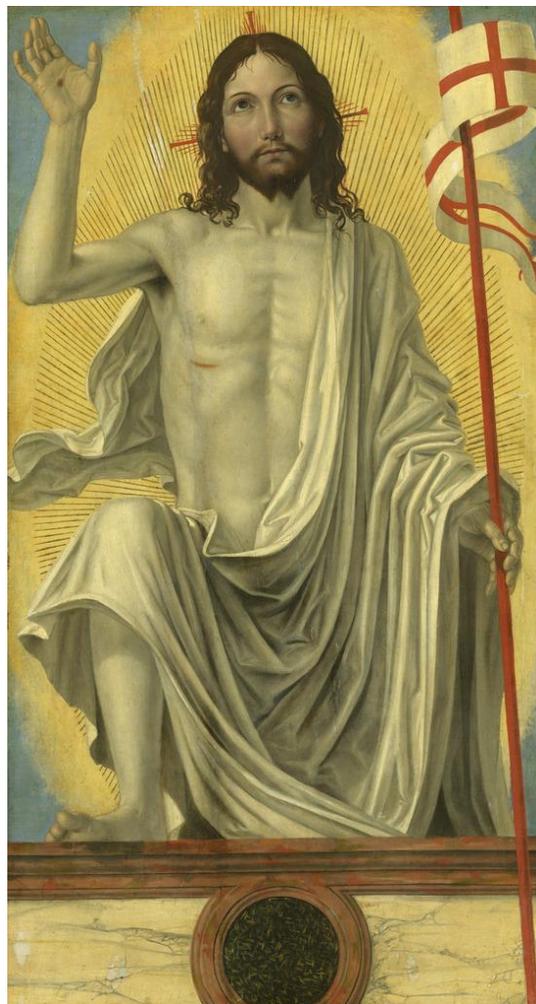
### **Closing prayer**

God, maker of marvels,  
You weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship. Your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that

humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and our Redeemer, who topples the walls that divide us from one another, and from all creation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*-Collect from the Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Commission*

**Postlude** *Trumpet Tune on "Easter Hymn" - David Lasky*



*Christ Risen from the Dead*

Bergognone, 1490