

The Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday 18 April 2021 at 10 a.m.
Officiant: The Rev. Canon Victoria Sirota
Lay Reader: George Morrison



Hymn 209 "We Walk by Faith"

The Congregation says the text in **bold**

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

Officiant 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.**

Hymn of Praise S277 *Gloria in Excelsis* David Hurd (b 1950)

The Collect of the Day

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

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from 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."

The Word of the Lord. **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.

A Reading from the First Letter of 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.

The Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

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

Sermon **The Rev. Canon Victoria Sirota**

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Form III

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;
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;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
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.

Silence

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the ministry of all who volunteer at Saint John's, for all who are members and all who work here. We thank you for the new COVID-19 vaccines and for all who are helping to make them available to us. We thank God for those who celebrate birthdays this week including Robert Perez Nevins, Edith Williams, Thomas Edward Gladwell III, Wayne Kempton and Luis Vilches, for all who listen to our weekly audio and on-line offerings, for this neighborhood of Getty

Square, The Sharing Community and Westhab, The Salvation Army, the YWCA and YMCA, the Yonkers Fire and Police Departments, all teachers, students and elected officials including our Mayor, for Saint John's Riverside Hospital, Saint Joseph's Medical Center, for all hospitals, nursing homes and group homes, and for all who work to help others.

Silence

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for our country and for a change in our policing so that all people are protected and defended. We pray for the families of Adam Toledo, Daunte Wright and George Floyd, for all who mourn their passing, and for all impacted by gun violence—most recently in Indiana, South Carolina, Texas, California and Colorado. We pray for all who are in danger by virtue of their labor, those who are in need of God's healing grace and those who are struggling with COVID-19. We offer up healing prayers for Jane Metzger, The Rev. Canon Claudia Wilson, Tom O'Connor, Linda Brown, Susan Spielmann, Joan Simpson Marszat, Lara Pilla, Philip Godlewski, Bill DiBartolo, Judy Hinsch, Marie Baptiste, Margaret Arguinzi, Denton Watson, Aida Carino, Shelly Henderson, Jill and Michael Potenza, Tom and Marianne Tonnesson, Robert Tracey, Connie Tracey, Jon Apolinario, Bill Randolph, Deacon Luis Rivera, Diana Wright, Phyllis Jackson, Adrian Campbell, Marsha Ra, Carla Navallo, Henry McNamee, Ruby Dixon, Joan Smith, Velma Crichton, Edith Williams, Carol Shoemaker, Judith Shorrocks, Catherine Corry, Anna Walters, Thomas Neale, John Farrell, Barbara Somers, Melinda Rosas, Donna Coyne, Benay Cooper, Linda Barta, Carla Jean DeBride, Naomi Henderson, Shaadira Smith, Roland Smith, Kelly Chadwick, Mary Sullivan, Al DeFeo, Melvyn Davis, Wendy Maxwell and Floyd Davis. We pray for Anthony Johnson, a Postulant for ordination as a deacon, for all who have lost their jobs and all who are struggling to pay rent and other expenses, for the Scavenging Workers' Children in India, for all who have been treated less than justly due to the color of their skin, including Asian Americans, and for changing hearts surrounding issues of racism in America.

Silence

We commend to your mercy all who have died that your will for them may be fulfilled, including Adam Toledo, Daunte Wright, Prince Philip, Debora Miranda, Earl Simmons (aka DMX), Joseph John DiBartolo, Officer William Evans, Firefighter Jared Lloyd and those who have been murdered in recent gun violence. We pray for all who have died from illness, natural disasters and warfare, and for the more than 565,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19. We lament those who have died over the centuries including indigenous peoples, due to slavery, lynching, racism and the unequal and unjust treatment of peoples in this country, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Officiant Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at His coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen**

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

The Peace

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Closing Prayers and Benediction

Officiant The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting 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.**

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Hymn 208 "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

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