



2nd Sunday of Easter

16th April 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). We recognise that God gave stewardship of these lands upon which we meet to the First Nations Peoples of this country (Acts 17:26). We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and their elders, both past and present, and those who are rising up to become leaders.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service today, on the second Sunday of Easter. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: God Sent His Son

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there
to prove my Saviour lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
because He lives all fear is gone;
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because He lives.*

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How sweet to hold a new-born baby,
and feel the pride and joy he gives;
but greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days
because He lives.

Because He lives...

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives ...

Minister's Welcome

The risen Christ is with you. **And also with you.**

Lord of life, by submitting to death you conquered the grave.
By being lifted on the cross you draw all peoples to you.
By being raised from the dead you restored to humanity
all that had been lost through sin.

Throughout these fifty days of Easter we will proclaim
the marvellous mystery of your death and resurrection.

For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

Risen with Christ, let us seek the realities of the Spirit.

Our life is hidden with Christ in God.

He who descended is also ascended far above the heavens,
that he might fill all things,

When Christ, who is our Life, appears we shall appear with him in glory! Alleluia!

The Sentence

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: Let us pray the prayer of approach,

**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, though Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Collect of the Day

God our Father, through the mystery of the cross your Son destroyed death and obtained for us the forgiveness of sins. Let our voices join in the thundering praise of all creation as we celebrate his resurrection. Breathe again your Spirit upon us, renew and empower our hearts so our lives may shine with your glory. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the second chapter of the book of Acts, commencing at verse 22.

²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me
to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, He spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Hear the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

The Psalm of the day is number 16, verses 1-2, 7-11

¹ Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

² **I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."**

⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep my eyes always on the LORD.**

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,**

nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading is from the first letter written by the Apostle Peter, commencing at the beginning.

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Hear the Word of the Lord **thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: He is Risen

He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it with a joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison,
let the whole wide world rejoice.
Death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.

Come with high and holy gladness,
sing our Lord's triumphant song:
not one touch of twilight sadness

dims his resurrection morn;
brightly dawns the radiant east,
brighter far our Easter feast.

He is risen, he is risen!
He has opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
soon a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.

Hearing the Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 20 verses 19-31. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon: When was the last time you glanced at your eternal clock?

Offertory Song: Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty;
unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom, authority,
flows from His throne
unto His own, His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty~
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

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Giving and Offerings The minister will pray for the gifts and offerings.

The Apostles' Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the church,

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Week

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In your great mercy you have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. There is now kept in heaven for us an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. Power our hearts so we may live by faith, shielded by God's power, until the coming salvation is ready to be revealed. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:

A prayer for the world ...

A prayer for all in authority ...

A prayer for the church ...

A prayer for our community ...

Let us pray together,

Thank you, Father, for your promise to not only hear our prayers, but to grant that what we have asked through faith we receive in the name of your Son Jesus. Amen.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Confession

Deacon: Our perfect and great High Priest, while he was here on earth, offered prayers and pleadings to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.

Let us therefore, in reverence for God, confess our sins, mindful of God's promise to hear us.

God of mercy, we humbly admit that we need your help.

We have wandered from your way.

We have sinned in thought, word and deed, and failed to do what is right.

You alone can save us.

Have mercy on us, wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.

Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit

that we may live the new life to your glory.

This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Promise of Forgiveness

The God of all healing and forgiveness draws us to himself. God alone cleanses us from all our sins. With forgiven hearts and cleansed minds, we are now free to behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raise him to the life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded; proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by our Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

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

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread: **so may your church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Communion Song: Jesus Stand Among Us

Jesus, stand among us
at the meeting of our lives,
be our sweet agreement
at the meeting of our eyes;

So to You we're gathering
out of each and every land,
Christ the love between us
at the joining of our hands;

Jesus stand among us at the
breaking of the bread;
join us as one body as we
worship You, our Head.

*O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here,
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.*

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Second Communion Song: Seek Ye Frist

Seek ye first
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be
added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall
be given unto you,
seek and you shall find:
knock and the door shall be
opened up to you.
Allelu, alleluia

We shall not live
by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth
of the Lord.
Allelu, alleluia.

Chorus: Alleluia, alleluia alleluia, alleluia.

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Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us. Give us courage as we wait for a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, and bring us to the joys you promise.

Father,

you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

The Minister says,

Almighty God, you have redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism. You brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom. May the eternal Spirit give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Thine Be the Glory

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly He greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without Thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through Thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan
to Thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

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