

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 23, 2023

READINGS: ACTS 2:14A,36-4; PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17; PETER 1:17-23; LUKE 24:13-35

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME GERI FURI AS OUR ORGANIST; STEPHANIE DEAN, SOPRANO.

Organ: Adagio in E Major" - Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

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

THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **The Lord is Risen Indeed!** Alleluia!

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.**

Hymnal S-280: Glory to God in the Highest

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.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

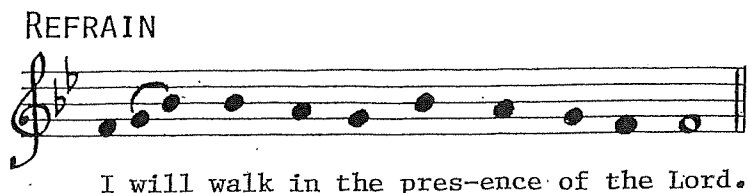
This reading is a summary of the preaching and other activities of the early Christian community in Jerusalem.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified. "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116 is an offering of thanksgiving and praise by one who has been rescued from death. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat and sing as indicated.

(Refrain insert)



How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. **R.** I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants. **R.** Oh Lord I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord. **R.** I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you O Jerusalem. Hallelujah! **R.**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

In this lesson, we hear that the price of Christian freedom from the old ways of futility has been paid with the sacrificial blood of Christ.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

all stand – Hymn 205, vs. 2

The Lord of life is ris'n today: Sing songs of praise along his way.

Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! (3x)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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.

Prayers of the People

Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed. Opportunity is extended to those present to offer their own petitions. The response to our prayers: "Hear us, O Risen Christ."

Special prayers, intentions and thanksgivings are offered.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us. Hear all our prayers and forgive us all our sins, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. All this we pray. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 306, Come, Risen Lord and Deign to Be Our Guest

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessing God, you walk with us from the Jerusalem of your death to the Emmaus of your glorious revelation . . .
. . . and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

Cantor
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

All
There - fore let us keep the feast. *All*
Al - le - lu - ia.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ is truly raised from the dead,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Organ Music during Communion: Aria - Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

After all have received, please stand.

Gracious God: Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Lord. Feed us always in these
mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. Send us out in peace, to love and serve you. We ask this
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to
be united with Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be upon you and remain
with you forever. Amen.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn 180, He is Risen, He is Risen! Tell It Out With Joyful Voice

Organ: Epilogue - Norman Gilbert (1926-2019)

A JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL!

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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