

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 7, 2024

READINGS: ACTS 4:32-35; PSALM 133; 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2; JOHN 20:19-31
THIS MORNING WE WELCOME JOSEPH DANIEL-HOSTE AS OUR ORGANIST.

Organ: Prelude: Grave & Andante (Sonata No. 2) - Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

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.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

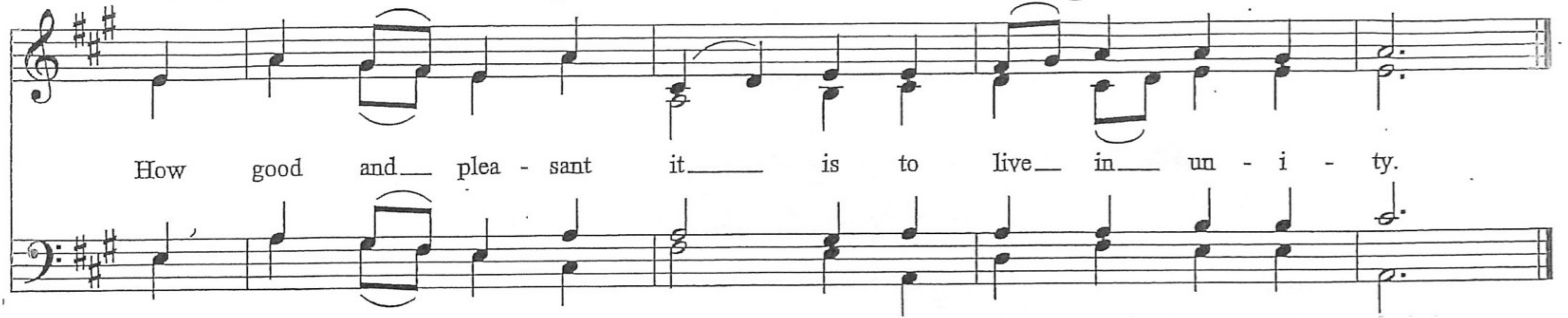
A Reading from the Book of Acts

In this reading we hear of the enthusiasm and spirit of sharing and caring for one another in the early Christian community.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated by R



Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity! It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe. R. It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore. R.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

The theme of this passage is the word of life by which Christians are called to walk in the light of God. Confessing their sins, they and all others can find forgiveness through Jesus.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

all stand – Hymn 205, vs. 1

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

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

Sermon Hymn 242, How Oft, O Lord, Thy Face Hath Shone on Doubting Souls Whose Wills Were True!

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

In joy and hope let us pray to God, who has raised our Lord Jesus from the dead.

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, O Lord, we pray;

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That needs be met for those who lack food, work or shelter, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That through peace war and famine may cease through all the world, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That God may reveal the light of his presence to the suffering, the sick, and the dying;

to comfort and strengthen them, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, O Lord, we pray; **R.**

That fire of the Holy Spirit may descend upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

O Lord, we pray; **R.**

EDOMI: All.together Campus Ministry (Henry Ford College, Dearborn; University of Michigan, Dearborn; Wayne State University, Detroit); St. John's, Westland; Grace Church, Southgate; Church of the Resurrection, Clarkston.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in the Province of West Africa; The Church in the Province of the West Indies.

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.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Organ: Lied - Louis Vierne 1870-1937

Offertory Hymn 206, O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

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.

It is our duty and our joy to give you thanks and praise . . . 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.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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.

After all have received, please stand.

Eternal God; We have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith, that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen 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 209, We Walk By Faith, and Not By Sight

Organ: Andante Maestoso (Sonata No. 2) - Mendelssohn

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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