

Easter 4, April 25, 2021

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Song of Praise **Great and Wonderful** (together)

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds
O Lord God the almighty
O Sovereign of the nations
- 2 Who shall not revere and praise your name O' Lord?
For you alone are holy
- 3 All nations shall come and worship in your presence
for your just dealings have been revealed
- 4 To the One who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb:
be blessing and honour, glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen

Celebrant May God be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant Let us pray together.

Collect of the Day (together)

O Christ our tender Shepherd, you know how anxious we are and how easily we stray. Let us hear your voice above the clamour of all others, that we may learn who truly feeds us and find our way home to you, our loving Lord, **Amen.**

First Lesson Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Psalm 23

- 1 O God, you are my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.
- 3 You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.

Second Lesson 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him,

and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Sermon

Prayers of the People

Living Christ, you are risen from the dead! You are eternal life, stronger than death. Open our eyes to see you as we ask for your merciful grace.

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially.... In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark’s Warwick and

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Pawtucket. We joyfully celebrate your resurrection with our brothers and sisters around the world. Imbue your people with a sense of your risen presence, today and always. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations of the earth, especially..... God of Creation, you have given us a world of wondrous diversity. Open our eyes to see the beauty of your cosmic weaving. Give us open hearts and the confidence to invite all into the bond of your love, that in unity with you, we may bring your reign of peace to all peoples. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation and its leaders. God of Hope teach us the difference between reaching down and reaching out. Guide the privileged few who determine the destinies of the many. Lead us not only to share our abundance, but also to enter with hope into the poverty of others with less. We remember especially.....

For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for our community, especially..... and for those who have birthdays: Rebecca Olsen, David Masse, Michael Brown, Alexander Gavitt and Peg Rostrup. God, who came to earth as one of us, help us to see you in each member of this community. Bless the many gifts of our members and keep before us the image of Servant Jesus, that in him we remain ready to serve one another and those whom you continue to bring into our midst. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer and struggle, especially . . .

God of Compassion open our hearts to bind wounds and heal. Bless each person who asks for our prayers. Be present, through your people, to all who need your comfort. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, especially . . . that your will for them may be fulfilled. God who loved us from before our birth and who loves us beyond the grave, we remember those who have died in the hope of the resurrection. And we remember those who mourn, that they may be assured of that same hope. For this we pray,

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray that our risen life include greater care of the creation you have entrusted to us. Help us to be champions for this fragile planet. We remember especially.....

For this we pray.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

All: O God, who created all people in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Peace *The people stand as they are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Eucharist (*people's responses*)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant May God be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People We lift them up to the Lord

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

At the fraction: *Celebrant:* We break this bread to share in the
body of Christ.

Response: We who are many are one body, for
we all share in the one bread.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray together.

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, Jesus declared your love, gave us grace, and opened a new way of living. May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. AMEN.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**

Postlude

Announcements: Upon entering or exiting, please put your offertory in the plate on the table.