

THE SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: Easter 3, Sunday 25 April, 2020. Year A
 Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN – 191 The Church’s one foundation

1 The Church’s one foundation

Is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation

By water and the Word:

From heaven He came and sought

her

To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

2 Elect from every nation,

Yet one o’er all the earth,

Her charter of salvation

One Lord, one faith, one birth;

One holy name she blesses,

Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses

With every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder

Men see her sore oppressed,

By schisms rent asunder,

By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping,

Their cry goes up, ‘How long?’

And soon the night of weeping

Shall be the morn of song.

**4 Mid toil and tribulation,
 And tumult of her war,
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace for evermore;
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth hath union
 With God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 Like them the meek and lowly,
 On high may dwell with Thee.**

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to you that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of you and your will, and make us obedient to your word, so that by your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

PSALM 116 (sung by choir – LHS 712)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie eleison, **Lord have mercy**
 Christe Eleison, **Christ have mercy**
 Kyrie eleison, **Lord have mercy**

HYMN OF PRAISE – This is the Feast

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb for ever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, since you have raised the fallen world by the humiliation of your Son: Grant continual gladness to your faithful people, that those whom you have delivered from the dangers of everlasting death may receive from you eternal joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Hear the Word of the Lord as it is written in the book of Acts chapter 2, beginning at verse 14.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Therefore 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.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hear the Word of the Lord as it is written in the first letter of Peter, chapter 1, beginning at verse 17.

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.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of the Lord as it is written in the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24, beginning at verse 13.

Now on that same day two of them 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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

HYMN – LHS 181 Abide O dearest Jesus

**1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Thy grace,
That Satan may not harm us,
Nor we to sin give place.**

**2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Thy Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.**

**3 Abide with heavenly brightness
Among us, precious light;
Thy truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.**

**4 Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Thy Word.**

**5 Abide with Thy protection
Among us, Lord our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.**

**6 Abide, O faithful Saviour,
Among us with Thy love;
Grant steadfastness, and help us
To reach our home above.**

SERMON

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And 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, dead, and buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
 from thence 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**

**or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'*

HYMN – LHS 89 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

**1 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
 For our offences given:
 But now at God's right hand He stands,
 And brings us life from heaven;
 Wherefore let us joyful be,
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Our songs of hallelujah.
 Hallelujah!**

**2 It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended;
The victory remained with life,
The reign of death was ended;
Holy Scripture clearly saith
That death is swallowed up by death,
His sting is lost for ever.
Hallelujah!**

**3 Here the true paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree -
So strong His love! - to save us.
See, His blood doth mark our door,
Faith points to it, death passes o'er.
The murderer cannot harm us.
Hallelujah!**

**4 So let us keep the festival
Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
By His grace He doth impart
Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended.
Hallelujah!**

**5 Then let us keep the feast today
That God Himself hath given,
And His pure Word shall do away
The old and evil leaven;
Christ alone our souls can feed,
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Our faith would seek no other.
Hallelujah!**

Christ lag in Todesbanden
 Martin Luther (1483-1546)
 Tr. Richard Massie, 1854, alt.

OFFERTORY

**What can I offer to the Lord,
 For all his goodness to me?
 I will lift up the cup of salvation,
 And call on the name of the Lord.
 I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
 And call on the name of the Lord.
 I will keep my promises to the Lord,
 In the presence of all his people.
 IN the courts of the house of the Lord,
 In your midst, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,[†] and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN – LHS 102 Hallelujah hallelujah**1 Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits

Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At His second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before Him wave,
Ripened by His glorious sunshine,
From the furrows of the grave.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen;

Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew and gleams of glory
From the brightness of Thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in
heaven,
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with Thee.

**4 Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high;
Hallelujah to the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Hallelujah to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Hallelujah, hallelujah
To the Triune Majesty!**

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)