

Second Sunday of Easter

St. MARY'S



April 7, 2024

Prelude

Bell calling us together

**Opening Hymn Be Thou My Vision
#488**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia

**The Collect for Purity – 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.**

The Gloria

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**

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in
the Paschal mystery established the
new covenant of reconciliation: Grant
that all who have been reborn into the
fellowship of Christ's Body may show
forth in their lives what they profess by
their faith; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever
and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

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 Response

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

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

The Epistle

1 John 1:1-2:2

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 Gospel

John 20:19-31

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.

he Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ**

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

The Confession Let us confess our sins to
God. *Silence may be kept.*

**God of all mercy, we confess that we
have sinned against you, opposing your
will in our lives. We have denied your
goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created. We
repent of the evil that enslaves us, the
evil we have done, and the evil done on
our behalf. Forgive, restore, and
strengthen us through our Savior Jesus
Christ, that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We pray today to our Risen Lord for faith in him, that our Christian communities may bear witness to his presence among his people, as we pray: *R/ Stay with us, Lord.*

- For the Church, especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, GERALYN, Daniel, and William our Bishops, all the people and parishes of the Diocese of Long Island, and for Charles our Priest. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks this week for the Churches of St. Mark's West Hampton, and St. Paul's , Patchogue.. We pray for us here at St. Mary's, that we may help the light of our Lord shine in this world and proclaim his message of truth and love in the language of our time, let us pray: ***R/ Stay with us, Lord.***

– For the community of the Church, that our leaders may inspire us by their faith and that we may bring your joy and peace to a world in dire need of hope and love, we pray:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

– For the communities of our families, that parents may inspire their children with a living, contagious faith, and that the young may be honest seekers of truth, justice and Christian hope, we pray:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

– For our national community, that there may be reconciliation where we are divided, and that both our leaders and the people

may believe in a future based on justice and peace, we pray

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

– For all those who doubt and seek, whether in the Church or outside, that they may encounter in us you, the living Christ, we pray:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

– For the community of our parish, that we may be concerned about the poor and the sick among us; that we may strengthen their faith as they recognize your goodness in us, we pray:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

– For all of us here, that our faith may inspire us to live and practice what we believe, and that we may have enough faith in one another to build up a real Christian community, we pray:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

Let us pray for all those who are on our parish prayer list.... *pause...* I invite you to share any intercessions you may have with this gathered community ...*pause...* For all of these we ask:

R/ Stay with us, Lord.

Jesus, our Risen Lord, stay with us, give us your Spirit, strengthen our faith, that people may see that we are a community of brothers and sisters because you life among us, now and for ever. ***R/ Amen.***

The Peace

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia.

The Doxology at the Preparation of the Gifts

The Great Thanksgiving for Easter (Scottish Episcopal Church)

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever. Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the

seal of freedom on your sons and daughters. Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me." We now obey your Son's command We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves a single, holy living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom. Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

All: **Our Father...**

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for

there - fore let us keep the

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the Alleluia. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu", "Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for", "there - fore let us keep the", and "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu".

Gifts of God.....

Musical Meditation after all have received: Morning Has Broken

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing ...

Closing hymn Crown Him With Many Crowns #494

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



We pray for Scott Miller, Wendy Turgeon, Paul Mobius, Betianne Morritt, , Rod Griffis, Jane Babinski, and their continued recovery

We pray for Ukraine, for the Holy Land and the Middle East for peace and for safety. For all those suffering from extreme weather in our country and around the world.

For those grieving loved ones, for those who are ill, for all those who serve the sick, the needy and those in prison, for all those who are anxious or fearful. For all those in the midst of war or natural disasters and we pray for...

Barbara Bringham, Jean Adams, Kathy Cogan, Jim Fancher, Diane & Nancy Fickett, Bob Fisher, Sharon Gibbs, Kathryn James, Halle Kneeland, Virginia Springsteen, Vita Stellke, Valerie Capon, Linda VanArdale, Beth Wagner, Louie Cicero, Barbara Allen, Hermance Canning, Linda Armbruster, Sr. Tina Ferrio, Andrew Kuhn, Sr. Joy Wright, and all our parishioners living with cancer, known or undetected & for all those who participate in

a 12 step group here at St. Mary 's. Call in any requests or corrections to the office. (631) 749-0770



April 7, 2024 – Easter 2 (B)
Week 2: Reflections on the Resurrection

During the Easter season, Sermons That Work is pleased to present reflections from some of the newest bishops of The Episcopal Church on the resurrection of our Lord. Check back each week for a brief exploration of how Jesus Christ's rising from the grave changes everything.

Spring has always been my favorite season of the year. Winters were long in the small New England town where I lived. Spring signaled new life and growth as melting snow gave way to crocuses pushing their way upward and recess back on the playground. As a young girl, spring also brought preparations for Easter, which included Lenten fasting and spring cleaning. Each year, the house would be turned upside down as curtains, linens, walls, baseboards, windows, and cupboards were scrubbed clean until all sparkled and appeared new once again.

For me and my four sisters, it also signified throwing off the drab outerwear of winter and donning new spring coats (all in different pastel colors of course), hats, patent leather shoes, and matching dresses. A feeling of newness and possibility filled the air. As I got older, I began to understand that Easter was more than new clothes and patent leather shoes, more than straw filled baskets brimming with cream-filled chocolate eggs and lollipops shaped like bunnies. Those feelings of newness and possibility were and remain part of God's story, the story my parents shared and lived each day.

My parents were resurrection people. They lived as best they could the life that Jesus embodied. They made sacrifices to ensure my sisters and I had what we needed to grow and thrive, and then some. They placed their trust in the Resurrection, secure in the knowledge that God was doing something new in their lives and in the lives of their children. The sacrifices they made were not always apparent; When I was much older, I discovered my mother had gone without a new coat for years so that my sisters and I could have new clothes each Easter. When my grandmother died, my parents invited my grandfather to live with us, so that he would not be alone in his retirement, giving up the bedroom they had just built for themselves. My

parents' generosity and service, more powerful than words, demonstrated to our family and community the difference between what counts and what doesn't. My parents placed their faith and trust in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and lived the promises made at baptism throughout their lives.

For them and for me, Jesus' resurrection reveals true life and faith are found in those places where people, often unnoticed by others, are placing their own bodies in the shape of Jesus' life. I have the privilege of seeing this lived out in the work of our federal ministry chaplains who counsel and walk alongside our military, veterans, and the incarcerated. They support, encourage, and offer Easter hope to the young sailor who is up all night with a sick child, the veteran who tenderly cares for his wife with advanced dementia, the soldier who prays for her alcoholic brother, the prisoner who speaks out against injustice in our legal system, the airman who seeks treatment for depression, the guardian who is questioning their sexuality and place in the military, or the marine suffering from moral injury, who, through reconciliation, is able to forgive herself and others.

It takes courage to be Easter people. It takes faith to be resurrection people. It requires us to put aside the promise of security, to embrace uncertainty, and to trust no other truth than what we have seen and heard in Jesus, and to find our hope in living lives of embodied faithfulness. Easter reminds us that we can experience the risen Christ in God's word, sacrament, and most profoundly in the intimate and personal ways we live out our baptismal promises. Jesus, through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection, proved what resurrection people know to be true: Nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love.



The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonja is the VIII Bishop Suffragan to the Presiding Bishop for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. She has served in the United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, the V.A., and as a priest and rector to parishes of all sizes. She is a resurrection person.