
Worship at St. John's Baptist Church

Sunday, April 25, 2021 | Eastertide

Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Allison Benfield

Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing, help us to praise!
Father all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, ancient of days!

Come now, O Holy One,
Thou who sent Jesus, Your Son, make us like You.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, we praise Your name!

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:1-22

Natalie Moore & Ken Hungate

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. The next day their 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, who was 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."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. They said, "What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Song

This Little Light of Mine

Children's Choir, from the St. John's Archives

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Nate Dove

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Moment of Meditation

How does God's gospel transform your view of everyone, every situation, and every experience?

Hymn

We Are Called to Be God's People

HOLY MANNA

We are called to be God's people, sharing God's love as it grows;
Heart and mind are now united claiming nothing as its own.
Every need we find among us, calls us to express God's love;
Now encourage one another through the heart of God above.

Message

Myth, Fallacy, or Gospel?

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn

Believers All, We Bear the Name

EDGE

Believers all we bear the name of Christ our living Lord.
As Christians in the world today, we hold fast to the Word.
From simple trust to growing faith our pilgrimage we trace
t'ward full maturity in Christ, Led there thro' God's good grace.

Believers all, in unity we follow God's commands;
Diverse in gifts, but one in Christ, we offer outstretched hands.
To all within the bonds of faith, to those outside faith's call,
That thro' our love the world may know our God as Lord of all.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust