



Giotto, from 1305.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

10:00 a.m.

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

The Reverend Matthew Hanisian, *Rector*

The Reverend Nathan Erdman, *Associate Rector and Chaplain*

The Reverend Dr. John Price, *Priest Associate*

Dr. HyeSung Hwang, *Director of Music Ministries*

Our mission is to gather as a welcoming community of Christ called to love and serve God, our neighbors and each other in joyful presence in the world.

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Dear St. Martin's Parish Family,

Eastertide greetings to you! I hope that you are all well, healthy and safe.

In last week's E-pistle, I promised to give you updates about our return to face-to-face worship as they became available. This week, several new pieces of information were passed along from the diocese. Please take a moment and read this update and the new information about our worship now and as we move forward.

To be clear, re-opening St. Martin's will go more slowly than most would like, indeed the road ahead of us is long. And, trust me, I am anxious to see everyone face-to-face—or masked face-to-masked face—as soon as we are able. However, my desire to resume in-person worship even in a limited sense, is severely tempered by my desire for our parish family to remain safe.

The overarching theological response, to which we as St. Martin's need to adhere, was most succinctly offered by the bishop of Maine: "God has a mission, and the church is called to engage it: the Episcopal Diocese of Maine is called to slow the spread of COVID-19." I believe that as St. Martin's, we are called to do the same. As we move forward we will continue to rely on the gospel values of trust, reciprocity and gentleness; we will remain open to ongoing prayer and discernment of God's will for us; we will care for the most vulnerable members of our parish family; comply with all laws as put forth by our state and county governments and health officials; and continue whatever necessary to minimize a second wave of infection and death.

This past week, the Diocese of Maryland sent out the requirements and materials for our churches to use as we develop plans to reopen. The plan I've been working on for the last six weeks or so will be vetted by a small group of parishioners, and then presented to the Vestry for its approval. Finally, the plan will be presented to the bishop and Standing Committee of the diocese for their approval. My hope is that by the middle of June we will have approval for our plans to re-open St. Martin's, in phases, over the course of the summer. Of course, this all might change if cases of the COVID-19 virus rise, or should the diocese, county or state governments put additional restrictions on what we can legally do in terms of our worshipping together once again.

On the weekly Wednesday Zoom Call with the clergy of the diocese, the bishop and his staff outlined the new policies and restrictions for all worship in our churches. One that you will see beginning next Sunday is that we have been told we can no longer sing during worship services (except for, if we choose, a cantor who might sing the words to hymns as we listen), inside or out, face-to-face in person, or even livestreamed. While this is disheartening for me personally, and I'm sure for many of you also, I remain committed to the safety of all of us as we worship together, even if apart.

I will continue to keep everyone informed as we move closer to re-opening St. Martin's for Sunday worship and thank you for your continued prayers and support as we manage through this time of pandemic.

With God's Peace and Blessings,



Welcome to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

Our worship services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), The Hymnal 1982 (H), and Lift Every Voice and Sing II. All are invited to participate fully in our worship of God this morning.

PRELUDE MUSIC: *Morning has broken*

Douglas E. Wagner

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: *Jesus Christ is risen today*

H 207, v. 1, 2, 4

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Our Hymns during the Great 50 Days of Easter feature the word "Alleluia," to express our gratitude, wonder and joy at God's gift of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Collect for Purity entreats almighty God to prepare our hearts for worship. This prayer dates back to the 10th century and has appeared in almost every Anglican Prayer Book in the world since Thomas Cranmer's original translation in the 1549 Prayer Book.

The Collect of the Day "collects" our individual thoughts into unified prayer that we might respond to the lessons we are about to hear.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 225

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

PSALM 68:1-5, 35-36

BCP p. 676

¹ **Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.**

² **Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³ **But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.**

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**

⁵ **Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation!**

³⁵ **Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.**

³⁶ **How wonderful is God in his holy places! the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!**

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF PETER

4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord

H 178, v. 1, 4

Descant

Refrain

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

1-4 *Final Ending*

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.

4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.

Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -

Now we shall live for ev - er.

joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed." "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

SERMON

The Reverend Nathan Erdman
The Reverend Matthew Hanisian

NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

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 – FORM III

BCP p. 387

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer this week we pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world; and in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: All Saints', Reisterstown; Ascension, Westminster; and Epiphany, Timonium. Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Eugene, our Bishop; Robert, our Assisting Bishop; for Matthew, Nathan, and John our clergy; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons; **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

For Donald, our President; the Congress and Supreme Court of the United States; for Larry, our governor; and Steuart, our county executive; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

The Nicene Creed is the most ancient and important corporate confession of our faith. We are joining ourselves to the great heritage of the holy (of God) catholic (universal) and apostolic (witnessing to the resurrection) church down through the centuries.

The Prayers of the People remind us that in our worship we are connected to a larger fellowship - the Church - the Body of Christ, on whose heart lies the cares and concerns of the world.

We pray for our St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School and Jamey, our Head of School. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble - this week we pray for Sarah, Julia, David, Kyle, Lynn, Susan, Ward, Carol, Kevin, Jenny, Mark, Jocelyn, Andrew, Bill, Cole, Elizabeth, Katherine, and Annie. **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest; **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life; we also pray for all those in our parish family who celebrate their birthday this week especially: Harrison, Ben, Kathy, Sarah, Parker, Ty, Karl, Katrina, Julia, Gavin, Hunter and Markella. And we pray for Greg and Melanie Boteler who celebrate their anniversary this week.

I ask your prayers for all those whose lives have been affected by the COVID-19 virus and all health care providers, as they tend to those who have been infected. Pray for those affected by natural disasters, who live in fear, or whose lives have been affected by gun violence and acts of terror, both domestically and abroad; for those serving in our Armed Forces; and for all of our children and grandchildren.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p. 360

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In celebration of the Easter Season, please give generously to the mission and ministry of St. Martin's as we continue to serve our neighborhood, community and the world in the name of the risen Christ.

Please click the link in the livestream video to give, or visit stmartinsinthefield.com/giving.

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

EASTER BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **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 for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Easter Blessing is an ancient three-fold blessing that highlights our redemption by the death and resurrection of Jesus and God's love for us as God's children—all of which are the hallmarks of our Christian faith and this holiest of days.

CLOSING HYMN: *The church's one foundation*

H 525, v. 1, 2, 5

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

The Dismissal asserts the relationship between worship and living. It is a call to mission, a call to live the baptismal and Eucharistic life in the world. During the Great 50 Days of Easter ONLY we insert the festive Alleluias into both the Opening Sentence and Dismissal, setting apart these days after Easter as holy.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE: *Jesus shall reign*

Marianne Kim

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