

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Fantasia on "Noel Nouvelet" (T. Price)

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Bishop: Lead your people to freedom, O God,

All: and banish all darkness form our hearts and minds

THE COLLECT

Bishop: Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

All: Amen.

We sing together... Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! (Common Praise #211)

1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"
2. The Lord of life is risen today;
Sing songs of praise along his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"
3. Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: 1 John 1:1-2.2

Reader: 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

CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

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Reader: 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

One: 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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We sing together... The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done (Common Praise #212)

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!
2. Death's mightiest powers have
done their worst,
And Jesus hath His foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Alleluia!
3. He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The gates from heaven's high portals fell
Let songs of praise his triumph swell
Alleluia!
4. On the third morn He rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain!
Alleluia!
5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee.
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Alleluia!

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray.

God of Resurrection, our hope and our joy, our comfort and our support,
we make our prayer to you saying,

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of all hope, as the time of pandemic continues,
and fear and anxiety persist, let us not loose heart;
but may your light of love and resurrection power
shine brightly in our hearts and minds,
to strengthen and sustain, to encourage and enliven, to support and guide us.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Risen Christ, who draws all people to yourself,
unite your Church at this time, who, though scattered,
are united in faith, in hope and in the joy of Resurrection.
Grant us boldness to live and proclaim your Gospel at all times and in all places.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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One: God the giver of gifts,
we thank you especially for those who have the gift of healing:
for those who have trained and work hard
and who give of themselves for the well being of others.
We pray for scientists, for doctors and nurses, respiratory therapists, and all hospital staff
working so diligently to protect us and treat the sick and suffering at this time.
Grant them your protection and strengthen the hands that care.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ who embraced the sick, we pray for those who are sick at this time:
for those in our hospitals, and especially those suffering with COVID-19.
Grant them peace, the healing power of your Spirit,
release from their fears and the comfort of your presence.
We name before you, silently or aloud, those known to us at this time...

Silence is kept

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Christ who has burst from the tomb,
we remember those who have died, here in Canada and around the world,
and those left to mourn, often without the closure and consolation of a funeral,
or the comfort of gathered friends and family. Be their abiding hope.
And may the feast of your resurrection remind us all of your faithfulness in life and death.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: God in Trinity, perfect community, envelop in your loving arms
the isolated and the lonely, those who feel forgotten;
those for whom continued physical distancing is acutely painful,
bring them support and connection and bright light in the darkest of times.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Victorious Christ, risen with healing for the nations of the world,
grant to our leaders in every place, discernment, wisdom and strength,
to protect and guard the most vulnerable,
to work for peace and justice,
to liberate the captives and pursue truth and love.

Lord in your mercy,

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All: hear our prayer.

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God, and in the language and version of our choice, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

We Sing Together... That Eastertide with Joy was Bright (Common Praise #231)

1. That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
alleluia, alleluia!
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. From every weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield:
alleluia, alleluia!
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. Jesus, the king of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!
that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on "Salve Festa Dies" (anon.)