

2020 04 19 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: On the first day of the week, Jesus came and stood among them, Alleluia.

C: The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against You, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which You know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased You, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

C: Amen.

PSALM 16

P: Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from You."

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
You hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let Your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Merciful God, Your Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life, who gives hope and joy to all even to those who doubt. Give to us, who do not see You, faith and life and blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our Gospel reading for today is from the gospel according to **John 20:19-31**.

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES CREED

C: 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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

SERMON based on John 20:19-31

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon “You doubt? They all did...”

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, merciful Father, as we pray for ourselves, for the Church, for our nation and for all conditions and manner of people.

God of mercy, keep us from the doubts and fears that cripple us and prevent us from knowing the fullness of Your saving peace and gracious presence. Teach us to trust in Your Word and to believe with all our hearts, minds, bodies and strength in Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins and raised for our justification.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, bestow upon Your Church Your Holy Spirit and all the gifts that come down from on high. Grant to us faithful pastors who will preach faithfully and ears to hear Your Word proclaimed. Give us boldness in our witness before the world and courage to speak Your name without fear.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power, give courage and strength to those persecuted for the faith, and comfort the families of the martyrs. Keep Your Church from following the winds of change, and make her steadfast in the doctrine of the apostles and the faith once delivered to the saints. Help us to admonish those who have fallen away with Your Word and to restore with gentleness those who have wandered from the truth.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our faithful Lord, receive our thanks and praise that despite these unusual circumstances and imposed restrictions, Your Gospel still goes out to the end of the earth and we as Your people can still gather in Your presence to receive the most precious gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. Strengthen us while we are separated bodily and bring us closer together through the indwelling on Your Holy Spirit. Be especially with those our brothers and sisters who are lonely and help them to experience the bond with Your body, the Church.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we give you thanks for the prayers heard, for all of them, but today especially we thank You for Your care for our sister in Christ, Joy Graetz. For our medical system, for skilful doctors and caring nurses, for amazing technologies, and for your providence bringing all these gifts together. Bless our sister with speedy recovery so that she can continue to be a blessing for many.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, hear us on behalf of those who cry to You in any need, for the poor and especially for our brothers and sisters in Nepal where many are deprived of their daily bread. We pray for the sick, the suffering, the disabled, the wounded in spirit and those in their last days on earth and all those whom we now mention in our hearts. Give them grace according to their need, and sustain them in their afflictions to the day when their sufferings will be exchanged for glory in the life to come.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless us with the good gifts of the earth, with the fruits of our honest labours, and with a kind and generous heart. Accept the worship of our hearts and voices along with the tithes and offerings we bring as part of our gratitude and thanksgiving. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the poor, that we may serve them in Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O blessed God and Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and teach us to trust in Your will to answer our prayers with all that is needful and beneficial, both for us and for all for whom we have prayed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

P: 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.

C: Amen.