

Zoom Contemporary Prayer, 9:00 am
April 11, 2021 – The Second Sunday of Easter

Meditation: “Because he lives”

Sung by Nicole C. Mullen

Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Behold, this is the day of the resurrection.
Let us glory in the feast!
Let us embrace one another in joy and say:

**“O friends, and enemies, too:
We forgive everything on resurrection day.
Let us all sing together:
Christ is risen from the dead!”**

Song: “Now the green blade rises”

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,
Thinking that he'd never wake to life again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
By your touch you call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green

A Reading from the Gospel of John

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 leaders, 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, 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.

Song: "There is a peace" by Harvest

Come weary and tired worn out from life
Step out of the shadows and walk into the light
Come sinner or saint, slave man or free
Bring blessings and offerings then you shall see
Bring blessings and offerings then you shall see

There is a peace to settle your soul
There is a peace that is calling you home

You've been tempted and shaken, tested and failed
You've been so far from Jesus and too close to hell
Your vision's been clouded by this world's delight

But I tell you you're not of this world so stand up and fight!
But I tell you you're not of this world so stand up and fight!

There is a peace to settle your soul
There is a peace that is calling you home
There is a peace to settle your soul
There is a peace that is calling you home

A Reading from "Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John" by Jean Vanier

Jesus invites each one of us, through Thomas, to touch not only his wounds but those wounds in others and ourselves, wounds that can make us hate others and ourselves, and can be a sign of separation and division.

These wounds will be transformed into a sign of forgiveness through the love of Jesus and will bring people together in love. These wounds reveal that we need each other. These wounds become the place of mutual compassion, of indwelling, and of thanksgiving.

We, too, will show our wounds when we are with him in the kingdom, revealing our brokenness and the healing power of Jesus.

Homily: Pastor Susan

The Prayers of the People for Easter

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace.

Awake, O Church, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love.

Awake, O World, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each of us might share with and honor the other.

Awake, O People, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the suffering, O God, especially Tiffany, James, Pat, Loyin, Orlando and Michael, Gloria, Charlene, Scott, Pamela, Judy and Steven Foster; for Helene and her family, at the loss of Liam; for Loderick and those who care for him, especially Deborah; and for the Asian-American Community.

For whom else shall we pray?
The people add their concerns.

That they might know your saving help.

Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope.

Awake, O Soul, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, especially these whom we name now.

The people name their own beloved departed.

That they might forever grow in your likeness.

Awake, O Saints, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy! Amen, alleluia!

Alleluia, amen!

We pray it all in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying,

Our Father...

The Prayers of this Congregation are for: Tiffany O'Toole-Flaherty, James Marino, Pat Hasin, Loyin Chau, Orlando Orozco and Michael Harris, Gloria Primavera, Charlene T., Scott Dillon, Pamela Davis, Judy and Steven Foster, Helene Oliviera, and for Loderick Smith and those who care for him, especially Deborah. Please remember them when you pray.

THE OFFERING

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Song: "Prayer for Peace"

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.
Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

The Blessing of our many and varied gifts

A Reading from "The Edge of the Enclosure"

by Suzanne Guthrie

Some of the countless sensate images from Holy Week...

Donkey's breath
Scent of trodden palms
Crash of tables, glissando of coins
Calluses, sores, corns, scars, dirt
Red wine, fresh bread
Bloody sweat
Chink of silver coins
Fire in the courtyard

Cock crowing
Spittle. Blood. Vinegar.
One hundred pounds of myrrh
Fresh linen
Cold heavy corpse
Unique footfall of each woman on the path

The Passion narrative shows the *very materiality* of our particularly incarnational religion, a materiality that perhaps makes it hard for the disciples to recognize the resurrected flesh, at least initially.

So, why, near the tomb in the garden, on the road to Emmaus, in the upper room, on the beach, was it difficult to recognize Jesus? What obscures normal sight and senses? Perhaps perceiving his presence demands a *heightening of senses*.

For Thomas, the privilege of doubt is a deeper embrace. Invited to place his hand in the divine wound, Thomas touches the interior flesh of the Beloved.

I'm beginning to realize this faith of mine isn't just inside my head. I place my hand in Thomas's hand.

The Closing Prayer

by John O'Donohue

We ask that streams of Easter light
might flow into the intimacy and privacy
of our hearts this day,
to heal and encourage us,
and enable us to make again a new beginning.
Through Christ our Lord; Amen.

Song: "We walk by faith"

Marty Haugen, Mass of Creation

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

that, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

The Easter Blessing