

The Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021
Holy Eucharist

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Behold, today 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!”

God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures. Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen Christ may truly confess him as Lord and God and share the blessedness of those who believe. **Amen.**

A Reading from Acts

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
 when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
 that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
 and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
 that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
 life for evermore.

The Gospel Gradual: "We walk by faith and not by sight"

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

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.

The 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 person 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, who has lost her great-grandchild, 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 Liam, and 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!

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

The Offertory: "Hallelujah, we sing your praises"

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. **Fine**

Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am
Je - sus says to us still: "All who do the Lord's will, all who

wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"
do the Lord's will are my sis - ters and my bro - thers." *D.C.*

God is here!

The Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy One, and blessed is your son, Jesus, who revealed your glory. Breaking forth from the grave's stronghold, he pushed back the stone, met us on the road as a beloved stranger, and awakened in us the hope of your saving love.

Ascended into glory, he is everywhere present, gathering up all things in the surprise of new life and desire fulfilled.

**Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our grief,
and is known again in the breaking of bread.**

On the night when he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it, saying, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed and shared it, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate here the life that was born at Bethlehem, the life Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, the life he shares with us now. Raised with him, and united with each other in his body,

We lay before you our gifts - this bread and wine, our very selves, and our offering of praise and thanksgiving.

Send your Spirit upon them all, that by their strength, we might go to feed the world in the name of our Risen Lord. **Amen!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father...

The Sharing of Bread

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. **Amen.**

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.

The Easter Blessing:

May Christ "Easter" in you so completely that that you come to know, as never before, the abundant life which he came to give us all; and may the blessing of God - Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Closing Song: "Because he lives" 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.

Let us bless the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, allel

