**Ante Communion Service: Easter 2 April 24, 2022**

*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water*,* the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*People* **Gracious God, have mercy on us.**

**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.**

*Celebrant* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant**

**of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**First Reading Acts 5:27-32**

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council.

The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,

yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel

and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit

whom God has given to those who obey him."

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

**Psalm 118:14-29** *Confitemini Domino*

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, \*
**and he has become my salvation.**

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*
**in the tents of the righteous:**

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \*
**the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"**

17 I shall not die, but live, \* **and declare the works of the Lord.**

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, \*
**but he did not hand me over to death.**

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*
**I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; \* **he who is righteous may enter."**

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*
**and have become my salvation.**

22 The same stone which the builders rejected \* **has become the chief cornerstone.**

23 This is the Lord's doing, \*
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! \*
**Lord, send us now success.**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*
**we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; \*
**form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**

28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; \*
**you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*
**his mercy endures for ever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading Revelation 1:4-8**

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was

and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ,

the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom,

priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,

who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

**Gospel John 20:19-31**

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 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**

*1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise, and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."*

*Refrain:
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!*

*2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me, neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]*

*3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking, life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]*

*4 I'm so glad I learned to trust him, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;*

*And I know that he is with me, will be with me to the end. [Refrain]*

**Nicene Creed** *Said by all.*

**We believe in one God, the Father 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**

**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 worshipped 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**

*Celebrant* With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,

those in need, and all of God’s creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world;

**That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;

**And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

**May they be filled with your love and peace.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ’s presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.**

**I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,
*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.** *Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion. *People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world**.

**Blessing**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in you, among you,

and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace and hope and joy to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

 **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

***The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]*** *Acapeldridge*

 *The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*Amen….*