



Sunday April 26, 2020, the 3rd Sunday of Easter.

Welcome to St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Lebanon, Oregon. We thank you for worshiping with us.

While we are apart, we are always close in our hearts and prayers.

My name is Sara Jameson, and I am one of the lay readers at St. Martin's. You can find today's scripture readings, at www.lectionarypage.net and scroll to April 26.

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The Lord be with you.
Let us pray the Collect for today.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Our First Lesson is from Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our

God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God.*

Today's Psalm is Psalm 116:

1-3, 10-17

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Today's Epistle is from the 1st letter of Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
Thanks be to God.*

***A reading from the Gospel of Luke
Glory to you, Lord Christ***

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger

in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions

gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

***This the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Christ***

Our **homily** comes from Bishop John Thornton, an excerpt from his 2015 sermon “Love is the Way.”

“...Mary had a baby and that baby become a boy and that boy became a man and those who encountered that man exclaimed:

That man's whole life is begotten of God!
That man's whole life is conceived of the Holy Spirit!
That man's whole life is born of the One who is holy and righteous!
He's something else!!!

And so, apart from, even in spite of, many of the little details in those beautiful, unforgettable, absolutely theologically true Nativity stories, we believe that God sent His son to all His sons and daughters in the world crying, Love is the way! Even from the cross, the crude cross, the cruel cross, he could gasp the Word of God: Love is the way.

My loves, we won't be saved by our knowledge of Scripture or our knowledge of theology or our knowledge of Church history – or even by our church-going. We will be saved only by our acts of love. So our church-going has to be an act of love. And our worship has to be an act of love. And every decision we make every day about everything whatsoever has to be our way of saying, Love is the way.

... my favorite prayer from the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* is this: “O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most

excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.” If I had to choose one prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer*, that would be it.

With all my heart, I do believe that “all our doings without charity are nothing worth” and that without charity “whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee.” Love is the way, the only way into the heart of the God. It's hate that kills us (and others). Unless we go love's way, we're contributing nothing to the lives of others - and, at the same time, nothing to our own - and nothing to the world for which our Lord, for love, gave his life. We're hardly more than dead.

Love is the way.
Go that way!
Never go any other way!
Go that way even if nobody else goes that way!
Never turn back!
Go, go, go Christ-ward!
And don't be afraid.”

Silence for reflection

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Our **Prayers of the People** are Form IV p. 388 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at (<https://www.bcponline.org/>)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Robin Barrett; Betty Myrtue; Jim Elton; and Mildred Sutter; and all the victims

of Covid 19. that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life, especially for everyone working and volunteering to keep us safe.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

We now give thanks to God for all His blessings in the words of the Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen.

Please join in saying the Lord's Prayer:

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.***

Let us conclude by saying the Prayer for St. Martin's

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, ***Amen.***

Alleluia!

**Let us go forth into the world, following the way of love, and
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.**

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Music by Ray Hendricks, St. Martin's musician, from his CD *Preludes of Praise*.