

**Order of Service, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter**



**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR
S. Kay Young, Homilist and Doug Young, Lector**

Greeting

- Alleluia, The Lord is Risen!
- *The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Acclamation

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

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.***

The First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

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 God's People
- *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.

Second Lesson

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
- *Thanks be to God*

The Gospel according to John 20:19-31

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.

- This is the Gospel of the Lord
- Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily

"Locked Doors"

S. Kay Young, Homilist

Good morning, and welcome again to the second Sunday of Easter. The Lord is risen!.....

This has been called Alb Sunday, since the newly baptized set aside the white albs from their Easter baptism. (how DID they keep them white for a week?)

Well, I guess it's true, no one ran out and bought a new outfit for today, and I am not roasting another leg of lamb.

Those of us here today are not tourists, but pilgrims. We come, any way we can, to share our stories of the risen Christ.

I'm a science fiction fan. A good story can take a look at very human conditions from a new angle. In one of the old original Star Trek episodes, there was a being of shimmering light, able to surround and commune with anything. Then she opted to become human to save a life. Her reaction? "How do you bear it, this loneliness?" I really do think that our separateness is the human condition, and we even participate in our own isolation without a pandemic. Oh, we have reasons for locking others out:

Fear: maybe the fear of being hurt by someone, or fear that we'll fail even if we take our best shot.

Shame: if they really knew me, they wouldn't love me.

Guilt: over something we did or did not do, perhaps years ago.

Hurt and loss: Maybe we can hide to keep from being hurt, again. Or from losing someone, again. Any close relationship threatens to bypass our defenses, and what if we need them, again.

Garrison Keillor said, "We always have a backstage view of ourselves." We let the audience see only the neatly arranged stage. But behind the curtain all kinds of things are lying around: old failures, hurts, guilt and shame. We hear that we are living in a shameless society, and that people are no longer bothered by shame. I don't believe it. Shame plagues our souls. Psychologists tell us that shame sweeps over us when we overstep our abilities, or when our fantasy about who we would like to be encounters the backstage reality of who we really are.

Nothing is more crippling to our souls than working at hiding shame. We lock up more and more doors, sealing off more and more rooms of the heart to prevent our true selves from being discovered. We think we are keeping the world out, but in fact we are keeping our very heart in quarantine, locked in.

And for some of us, there is a litany of "not being ENOUGH." We aren't good enough, smart enough, strong enough. We feel so small that it is just simpler to hide behind locked doors than to be seen as inadequate as we believe we are. Who are we to heal the world? We cannot heal ourselves!

And so we lock doors. Sometimes physically, more often the doors to our hearts.

BUT Here's the Easter message on this "Low Sunday". Jesus walks through locked doors. Let me repeat that Christ walks through locked doors. Yours. Mine. The Church's and the world's. Christ did not wait for the disciples to be perfect, or even ready. There they were, locked in an upper room, afraid to even go out for food. Christ didn't criticize, or shame by His presence. It's the Easter message again, as powerful as it was last week. Love is alive; it is here, and now. We are resurrection people, ready or not; believe it or not.

Here are some conclusions from The Rev. Canon Marie Richards of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newport, Rhode Island, years ago:

“... Jesus didn’t give up on them. He did not go out and recruit a whole new bunch of followers to replace the ones who had a momentary lapse of faith. He came back to his followers, he came back through their locked doors, and showed them his resurrected body, and gave them his resurrected life.”

We are those disciples. Sure we run off from time to time. Sure we doubt. Sure we aren’t perfect followers, but Jesus shows up anyway, walks through our human-ness and offers us the same gifts.

And it is OK if our transformation takes a little, or a lot, longer than one day, one moment. Maybe our transformation and our healing, our resurrection will take years, a lifetime. And that is just fine. Because Jesus is going to keep coming through the locked doors, and he is going to keep offering peace. And his breath is going to keep blowing over, around, through us. We have time. We have time to come back to life.

Don’t rush Easter. Live it. Don’t pack away the gift of the resurrection with the pastel colored decorations. Celebrate it daily.

I want to add:

Open your locked doors, even if we’re still wearing your masks. God is with us. We are loved. It may seem unreasonable, but with God nothing is impossible.

Happy Easter! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Prayers of the People: a special form for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

The response is: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Gathered as believers in Christ, made one body through baptism, let us offer prayers to God for the living hope of all the world.

For peace from on high and for our salvation.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For this parish family of St. Martin’s, that we will faithfully bear witness to the risen Christ in word and deed.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For our new brothers and sisters illumined by the light of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Diana our Bishop, for all clergy, deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those in need, the suffering and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners, and the dying.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed, especially those we mention at this time and those known to God

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves, our families, and those we love, especially those on our prayer list and those we name at this time, silently or aloud.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who gives us eternal peace through Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers which we offer in the hope of glory, and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the 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 again 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 worshiped 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.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, 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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

Blessings

Dismissal: **Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia.**
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

