



Sunday, April 18, 2021

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

"He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.'" Luke 24:38-39

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
In your resurrection, O Christ, **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son CP 210

***Yours be the glory, risen, conquering son:
endless is the victory over death you won.***

***Angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where your body lay.***

***Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.***

***See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living; death has lost its sting!***

***Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.***

***No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life:
what is life without you? Aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through your deathless love;***

*bring us safe through Jordan to you home above.
Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.*

Blessed are you, God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory forever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt and led them to freedom in the promised land, so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the loving reign of the risen Christ.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation, rejoice in this new day you have made and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 4

The image shows a musical score for Psalm 4. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Above the treble staff, guitar chords are indicated: D, (A7), D, (Dmaj7), D, G, Em, A7, Dsus2, D, and D. The score includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and a 'Final' marking at the end. The lyrics are: 'Lov - ing God, you put joy in our hearts. hearts.'

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

**you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

“You mortals, how long will you dishonour my glory;

how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful

and will hear me when I call.

Tremble, then, and do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices

and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart,

more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;

for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Death is swallowed up in victory. **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised. **Where, O death, is your sting?**

We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Now the Green Blade Rises CP 237

***Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.***

*In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raise from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Listen for God’s Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Sermon

‘I am the Lord, your Holy One, **the Creator of Israel, your Sovereign.**’

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, **a path in the mighty waters,**

‘Remember not the former things, **nor consider the things of old.**

Behold, I am doing a new thing; **now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, **to give drink to my chosen people,**
the people whom I formed for myself, **that they might declare my praise.’**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Please join me in reciting the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

God the Creator CP 445

*God the Creator, you in love made me who once was nothing but now have grown.
I bring the best of all my life offers; for you I share whatever I own.*

*O Christ the Saviour, you in love called me who once was no one lost and alone.
I pledge to go wherever you summon, making your will and purpose my own.*

*O God the Spirit, you in love move me who once was nowhere and felt unknown.
I know my need of you for companion: all things can change when not on my own.*

*And with the people summoned together to be the church in which faith is sown,
I make my promise to live for Jesus and let the world know all are his own.*

Stewardship Moment

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying, 'Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.'

May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May all people receive the good news of Christ's victory.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ's resurrection.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the people of God that they might proclaim the risen Lord;*
- *God's creation that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care;*
- *those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ;*
- *those in fear of death that they may find faith through the resurrection and*
- *prisoners and captives.*

Let us pray: O God, our beginning and our end: accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty and, by your Spirit's gentle touch, make us a people forgiven and forgiving; through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

We Will Lay Our Burden Down CP 545

***We will lay our burden down, we will lay our burden down,
we will lay our burden down, in the hands of the risen Lord.***

***We will light the flame of love, we will light the flame of love,
we will light the flame of love as the hands of the risen Lord.***

***We will show both hurt and hope, we will show both hurt and hope,
we will show both hurt and hope like the hands of the risen Lord.***

***We will walk the path of peace, we will walk the path of peace,
we will walk the path of peace hand in hand with the risen Lord.***

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.** May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**

Readings for next Sunday – April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18