

The Sunday Missive – April 4, 2021



Easter Sunday – The Feast of the Resurrection

Greetings, one and all, and welcome home to St. Peter's by the Sea. Janis Johnson, Mary Sue Gee, Thelma Huchthausen, Nancy Castle, Diane and Roger Ludin and I bring you this service of prayer, scripture and song with love. If you go to our facebook page, you can watch and participate from home: [facebook.com/StPetersMorroBay](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersMorroBay) Scroll down until you see today's Sunday Missive, anytime after 11 A.M. on Easter Sunday. No facebook account is needed! The links that follow each hymn will take you to youtube videos of a wide range of people around the world singing those hymns – enjoy them! Please direct any questions or comments to The Rev. Sidney Symington via: (203) 209-2339 or sssymington@gmail.com. **Let us pray:**

Most gracious Creator, you made this most holy morning to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 199 – Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God hath summoned Israel into joy from sadness:
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke, Jacob's sons and daughters
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal:
But today amidst thine own thou didst stand, bestowing
That thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv0awrVhE0I>

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he

did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." This is the Word of the Lord.

Psalm 118

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good* Whose steadfast love endures forever!

The Lord is my strength and my might* God alone is my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous* The right hand of the Lord does valiantly

The right hand of the Lord is exalted* The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

I shall not die, but I shall live* And recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely* But he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness* That I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord* The righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me* And have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone* This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made* Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X4L9yTP7bc>

A Reading from St. Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, through which also you are being saved. Hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—you have not come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day and appeared to Peter and the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred sisters and brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. And last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit even to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and that grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I have worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. This is the Word of the Lord.

Hymn 178 – Jesus is Lord of All the Earth

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth. Jesus has died and has risen.

Come let us praise the living God; joyfully sing to our saviour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3GgbtmrqBM>

A Reading from The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 16

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Welcome to church on this fine and glorious Easter morning. As the psalmist insists, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten child into the world to do whatever was necessary to appeal to humankind in the name of peace. Preaching wasn't sufficient, even healing wasn't sufficient. But overcoming death – now that made the joyful noise heard around the world, a sound that reverberates here in this place on this Easter morning and forevermore.

"For you have been a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of enemies like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

What are these terrible storms and noisy enemies? All of us have our own lists. As Richard Rohr observes, "Christ crucified is all of the hidden, private, tragic pain of history made public and given over to God."

And what are the rich foods that Isaiah extols, rich foods filled with marrow, and well-aged wines strained clear? "Christ resurrected is all of

that private, ungrieved, unnoted suffering received, loved and transformed by an all-caring God. How else could we have any kind of cosmic hope? How else could we not die of sadness for what humanity has done to itself and to one another?" We have seen the Moabites, and they are us. "Jesus is the blueprint, the plan, the pattern revealed in one body and moment of history to reveal the meaning of all of history and each of our lives. The cross is the emblem of what we do to one another and to God. The resurrection is the banner of what God does to us in return."

"All through the Bible, in both Torah and Gospels," writes Madeleine L'Engle, "comes the message of blessing, and that it is the vocation of the people of God to bless as well as to be blessed, and to turn away wrath with a soft answer—a softness that is not flabby, but which has the power of meekness. Easter is the most brilliant of all blessings. It is almost too brilliant to be contemplated, lie looking directly into the sun. We are burned and blinded by life."

The confirmed and corroborated and celebrated sightings of Jesus by his followers change only one thing in the nature of our existence, but that one change changes everything. It's said that all we really want is something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to. Jesus gives us all this. Our earthly lives are God's commodity, God's currency. How much of this precious substance is misspent in sadness, self-destruction and violence – each day's news brings us stories of more. But today we know for certain that the power for goodness continues beyond earthly life. It is not gone from our hearts, even when things are out of our hands. Because Jesus was lifted up, so can we be also. We can become citizens of a different society, another culture from the one we have grown used to. Our desire to be connected with that which is timeless is fulfilled in the living Christ. Our hearts now have a sense of connectedness and hope, our voices can now sing psalms that say, "We shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord."

So, whether we rise up saying, "Chrystus Zmartwychwstał" or "Welcome happy morning," the truth of this day persists beyond our imaginings: Hallelujah, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouudON4OAP4>

Anthem: *I know that my Redeemer Liveth*
from *The Messiah* by G.F. Handel – Mary Sue Gee, Soloist

I know that my Redeemer liveth
And that He shall stand at the Latter day upon the earth.

And tho' worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Prayers

Truth-telling, wind-blowing, life-giving spirit, we present ourselves now for our instruction and guidance; breathe your truth among us, breathe your truth of deep Friday loss, your truth of awesome Sunday joy. Breathe your story of death and life, that our story may be submitted to your will for life. We pray in the name of Jesus crucified, and him risen to new life. ***Amen.***

Gracious Creator, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve all who are ill, recovering from surgery, in mourning or otherwise suffering this day, especially Jane, Bob, Latifah, and those we name now, silently in our hearts or fervently with our voices. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that all for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care. I ask your prayers especially for the family and friends of Elizabeth Gatchel. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, by the mercy of God rest in peace. ***Amen.***

Source of all goodness and life, through this day, we have named you in gladness, we have pondered the world you call good, we have relished your gifts and your tasks, and we have marveled in amazement, yet one more time, at the wonder of this Easter Jesus, who has died and is alive among us. Now we are homeward; and when we arrive there, it will be as it was this morning, with anxiety and demand, maybe conflict and even inconvenience.

Except that all things will be – yet again – made new. Make them new by your spirit; make new the church where we live; make new the public reality of justice among us; make new the practice of compassion in our neighborhood; make new every surge of peace in our violent world; make new the policies of our government and the workings of the church. Make all new, and we will be in Easter joy: unafraid and unwearied, your glad people, carrying among us the marks of the death and of the new life of Jesus in whose name we pray. ***Amen.***

Hymn 210, The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9HwsVBPbNc>

Now may the promises of God working in you light up your eyes. May the love of God revealed to you in Christ Jesus shape your living. May the truth in God's word guide your every journey and may the joy and hope of God's kingdom fill your hearts this Easter Day. And thus the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you forever. ***Amen.***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TFuqp97cs>

