

May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Welcome to our service of Holy Eucharist. All are welcome, we are glad that you are here. The people are invited to join in everything that is in **BOLD** type, while the Celebrant will speak the plain type.*

The people stand.

Entrance Hymn ~ Come Bring Your Burdens to God

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May his grace and peace be with you. **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

There is one body and one Spirit; **there is one hope in God's call to us;**
one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **one God, the Source of all being.**

Gloria

Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo, Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia (2)

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The people sit.

First Reading: A Reading from the Book of **Acts 7:55-60**

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of

Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

PSALM 31:1-5,15-16

- 1 In you, my God, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;*
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 **Incline your ear to me;***
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;*for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,***
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,*
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.
- 15 **My times are in your hand;***
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant,*
and in your loving-kindness save me."

**Glory to God our Creator, to God's most Holy Word,
and to the Spirit, indwelling:***
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

May Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
The Holy Gospel according to John **Glory to you O Christ**

John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to

the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you O Christ

The people sit.

Sermon (Please note: you can view today's sermon on a separate video posted on our Youtube Channel)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled”

These are words we hear, I hear especially as a pastor, at funerals. Funerals, when we gather to strengthen our hearts for the work of living that still lies before us. We gather to say the truth, to say goodbye. We sit in the midst of grief and loss, whether the death we are looking at was long and expected, or sudden and terrible, it is still and always heartbreaking. We sit on this side of life, and wonder, what is there, across that great divide? This, it seems to me, is the most human experience of all. We ignore it, we hide it under the rug, we pretend that somehow this death thing, well that won't happen to me, or to those I love. Until of course it does, sooner or later.

I remember when I was a little girl first learning about death. There was a lot of death in my first few years, before I knew anything about it: my young aunt Margie, my mother's sister, died tragically at 30 years old. This was just a few months before my first birthday. Then her father, my grandpa died a few years later. I am sure he died of grief.

But then – when I was about four -- a pet turtle died. I asked my mother when I died, to just put me in a chair on our wide deck above the flowers and the trees and cover me with leaves. Maybe, in some way that *will* happen. We will be covered with dirt, earth, leaves, living and dying things. This is just who we are. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. We are made of earth, and to earth we shall return.

But even at the grave we sing this song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. We, who are Christians, know that somehow death no longer has a permanent hold on us. I don't believe in a fluffy clouded heaven. But there is something, that somehow will hold us all.

"In my father's house, there are many rooms."

My prayer for us all is that in these days our ability to perceive and experience God's presence will be expanded. We have had many illusions, many distractions simply ripped away. But perhaps these were false things. These were things we didn't need anyway.

The real grief we feel -- I know I do -- is the diminishment of human contact and belonging. It is most impossible to bear. My grandchildren are passing these days mostly without me. I have not managed to master these computer pathways very well. But it is in their absence that I have become keenly aware of how much they matter. I miss all of you so much.

As I prepare to speak to you each week, I read different reflections on the Sunday readings, and sometimes I borrow from these. Sometimes it doesn't touch me deeply, but once in a while it does. This week I read a reflection by Lindsay Jodrey, from Princeton Theological Seminary. In her writing she quoted at length a friend of hers, also a professor, Dr. Erin Rafferty. It seems that Dr. Rafferty is the mother of a young girl, Lucia, who has a terminal illness. When I read Dr. Rafferty's words, I knew that she had said everything I wished to say: about vulnerability, about fragility, about strength, suffering and hope. I will leave these last words to her:

I don't want to live with a false security that my child will always be there. Instead, with the full knowledge of life's impermanency, we can choose to love even more fiercely, generously, lavishly.

For many people, and importantly, the living and loving to be done in these days includes showing up as scientists, doctors, nurses, and emergency responders to those who are suffering and dying. But for the rest of us, there will be the equally hard and important work of loving fiercely, praying, honoring, and naming the dead, and not shying away from grief and fear but embracing them and their pain, in patience and hope that love will survive.

Our naivete may be gone, grief and death may be more and more evident these days, but perhaps there is salvation to be found. While we can't save ourselves, may we be reminded that the God who saves has been unleashed in the world as love incarnate.

Love will conquer death. Love will find a way.

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

I believe in God

Creator of the Universe dwelling forever beyond time and space.

I believe in Jesus Christ who came to live amongst us

and let us see what God is like.

I believe in the Holy Spirit sent by God through Jesus
To be our guide and comforter.

Therefore I believe in Love in hope, compassion, joy and faith
Forgiveness and eternal life.

(Frances Sommerville, One Woman's Creed)

Prayers of the People

Dear God's people Let us come together, from every place where we are and bring our petitions to God. We trust that God is control of our current situation and will continually guide us and see us through this very turbulent time. I will say.. '**O God our Saviour**' and let us please respond with ...'**Hear our prayer.**'

O God our Saviour

Congregation: Hear our Prayer

Please pray with me

Compassionate and ever forgiving father, show your mercy on us your children, we have sinned against you.

We know that the prayer of the righteous is like music to your ear. Forgive, cleanse and make us righteous so that our prayers will be like music your ears. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

Merciful and ever-loving God, we commit your church on earth to you. Draw us deeply into the reality of Christ's sufferings, that everyone whom you have called may show forth the power of his resurrection during this Easter season. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

Jehovah -Rapha – God our healer. We commit totally to you the rampant Corona Virus. Many of you children have lost their lives, many are still fighting for their lives and the lives of many have been affected. Lord we trust in your healing power, you have never disappointed your children. Stretch you healing hands and cleanse the world of this pandemic. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

God our protector, we commit to you especially the health care staffs. They risk their lives all day, to save the lives of others. Grant them protection,

strength and fortitude to keep looking after your people. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

Good we commit world leaders and word organisations that are handling this pandemic. Grant them the wisdom to make the right decisions to protect humanity. We equally pray for all who are trapped at home or cannot go about their daily activities, we think especially of the kids and elderly. Give them peace of mind and guard them from going stir crazy. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

Lord our God we will continue to pray for our Dear sister Donna. Please continue give her the strength and resilience to shoulder the challenge she is facing. Give us the wisdom to support her in the best possible way we can. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

We pray especially for our priest Emilie, Martha and others who have been working tirelessly to keep your church at St Barnabas alive. We pray you keep them safe, healthy and replenish their energy. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

We pray for strength and wellbeing of our family, friends and loved ones. Although we might not be able to visit or see them as much as we would have love to, we trust that in your care they are fine. **O God our saviour.**

Church: Hear Our prayer.

God our Saviour and Redeemer, you are constantly at work, bringing forth new things in your creation. Please hear the prayers of your children at St Barnabas and continue to do ever greater wonders for the entire family of mankind, through your Son Christ our Lord ...Amen

Confession

The people stand.

Holy and Compassionate One.

We acknowledge before you,

that we have fallen

short of the glory you have laid out before us.

In your mercy,

forgive us our wrongdoings,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life.

to honour and glory of your name.

Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Loving Creator,
Father and Mother,
have mercy on us,
forgive us for forgetting to love,
and renew our ability
to give and receive love in all that we do.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn ~ In My Father's House

During the offertory hymn we bring to the altar our gifts of bread and wine, and our financial offerings.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.
Day by day you shower us with blessings.
As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

(We sing the Opening, the Sanctus, don't worry about 'getting it right', please join as you are able.)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy Holy Holy Lord God of Power and Might
Heaven and Earth are Full of Your Glory

Hosanna in the Highest

Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord
Hosanna in the Highest

Therefore, Creator, according to his command:

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.
We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

The Table is ready and all are welcome

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Prayer After Communion

The people stand.

Let us pray:

God of love,
in this eucharist
we have heard your truth
and shared in your life.
May we always walk in your way,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Priest`s Blessing

May the light of God illumine your hearts.
May the flame of Christ kindle your love.
May the fire of the Spirit free you to live boldly.
And the blessing of holy and undivided Trinity:
✙ Source of all being, Word of redemption and Spirit of wisdom,
be with you all, now and for ever. Amen.

Sending Hymn ~ CP 401 My Heart Flows On

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,

how can I keep from singing.

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Sending out

Go forth in peace and love, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!