

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022

8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional: *Crown Him With Many Crowns* #378 HB

Children's Time Rev. Susan Snelling

THE GREETING Pg. 185

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.

People: **May he fill our hearts with joy**

GLORY TO GOD

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Kyrie *Lord, have mercy.*
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day (Prayer of the Day)

All: **Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 150

Reader: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;
People: praise him in his mighty firmament!

Reader: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
People: praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Reader: Praise him with trumpet sound;
People: praise him with lute and harp!

Reader: Praise him with tambourine and dance;
People: praise him with strings and pipe!

Reader: Praise him with clanging cymbals;
People: praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Reader: Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
People: Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So, it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

The Gradual: *Alleluia*

#715 HB

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: **Glory to You Lord Jesus 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.

The Gospel of Christ

People: **Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

Gradual: *Alleluia*

Sermon: Rev. Susan Snelling

God who raised Christ from the dead, speak to us through word and thought so that your will may be done, and our nightmare give way to your dream for our world. Amen.

We have been presented with two contrasting stories about the first followers of Jesus and their responses to the resurrection of Jesus and each is a true representation, in the sense of being an accurate account, of the beginnings of the next stage of the ministry that Jesus had begun which now seemed to have ended with his death.

On the one hand, we have a description of the disciples on the evening of the first day of the week. Earlier that day, Mary Magdalene had gone to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. She, Peter, and the beloved disciple had seen the stone rolled away, the clothes that bound the body lying on the ground, and the linen which was wrapped about his head neatly folded. There was no body in the tomb!

Then Mary had seen Jesus, recognizing him when he spoke her name. She had come racing back with the news that she had seen Jesus – risen! Not only that but he had spoken to her – telling her to go back and tell the others. It had been a strange day.

The disciples were wrung out emotionally. It had only been three days since they had seen their friend and teacher brutally beaten and crucified like a criminal. They must have been wondering what they were to do now. Grief and fear had consumed them. And now joy, wonder, and still fear for the future as Jesus comes to greet them.

On the other hand, we hear about the apostles being brought before the Sanhedrin, the same body which had plotted against Jesus, to be questioned. That must have been slightly terrifying. They had already been jailed once for publicly teaching and healing in Jesus's name. When they are accused of continuing to teach in Jesus's name against the expressed instructions of the council, they boldly proclaimed that they were witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus and they must obey God rather than obeying human directions.

How did Jesus's followers move from the overwhelmed people in the upper room to the courageous witnesses before the Sanhedrin? I am going to suggest that three things happened.

Into the emotional turmoil of that first evening comes Christ speaking words of peace, of calm, “Peace be with you.” Perhaps those words brought reassurance. His presence may have eased their fears. It certainly brought confirmation of the incredible story which Mary had brought them.

Interestingly, but not surprisingly, Jesus then tells the disciples that he had been sent into the world by God to proclaim the Good News of God’s mercy, forgiveness, and love. To bear witness through words and actions to God’s abiding presence. Now he was sending them out to do the same. To do the things that he had done so that the ministry of hospitality and love would continue and spread. He had taught them as much as he could, given them the tools they would need but now it was up to them to execute God’s ministry of forgiveness and love. When Thomas returns later that evening, they like Mary, proclaim, “We have seen the Lord.”

Now some of us take a little more convincing than others. Thomas is not going to get pulled unto some bandwagon until he is sure about what it means. He wants to see for himself rather than relying on

someone else's word. Often, we speak about doubting Thomas as if doubt is a negative thing. Thomas gets a bad rap. But scepticism and questioning are not necessarily "bad." We all must experience Jesus for ourselves and develop a relationship with God that is our own. Being told or taught about Jesus's life or another's experience is the beginning of faith, but fully developed faith is lived in lives given over to God. We all must come to a point where we can utter expressions such as Thomas's, "My Lord and My God."

Jesus brought calm and peace into a stressful situation. That calm was necessary to allow the disciples space for reflection – time- to stop and think – make some sense of the recent events.

Jesus passes the torch as it were. His earthly life and ministry have come to an end – but those who have seen and heard Jesus have the opportunity to go out into the world to share all they have witnessed.

Jesus expresses the importance of our individual belief which enables us to speak and act with conviction. To convey that belief to others and invite them into the story.

These steps allow the transformation of the disciples from a group of uncertain, fearful, confused people huddled in an upper room to a group of assertive, convicted witnesses prepared to stand up and testify about their experience and face the consequences of their actions because they know the importance of the message they have been entrusted with.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the lives and witness of those first disciples. Grant us courage and wisdom in this Easter season so that we might recommit ourselves to the ministry we have been called to and reaffirm our belief in Jesus Christ, risen, your child, our friend and model. Amen.

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Pg. 189

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (#15)

(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of Glory!")

- Leader:** That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened; let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**
- Leader:** That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pg. 191

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,
People: **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 neighbours 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.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE PEACE:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: ***Alive, Alive (twice)***

#139 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All: **God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER #3:

Pg. 198

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **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.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup on wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for

you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father according to his command,

All: **we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and made them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

By whom, and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Celebrant: As now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: **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, the power, and the
glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD #8:

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All: **Now we are raised to new life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.
All: **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD:

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymns:

We Hold the Death of the Lord Glorify Thy Name

#68 HB
#19 SB

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

All: 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.

THE BLESSING:

Officiant: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

People: **Amen.**

REMINDERS: *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

Recessional: *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* #384 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

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JOHN 20:19-31

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Assisting Rev. Susan today:

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Susan Snelling
Bread: The Rev. Susan Snelling
First Reading: Joy Packham
Second Reading: Pauline Cook
Prayers: Lorraine Chew
Gospel: Margaret Paradis
Psalm: Cheryl McPhee
Servers: Beth Steffler
Music: Craig Snider
Audio/Visual: David Paradis
Chancel Ministry: Sharon Zaccigna
Sidespersons: Bob Cheesman, Al Lavender

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

EV, Parents & Family; Carl Dicks & Family; Anita & Family; Matthew Canning; Bill Canning; Quinn, Cass & Cory; Donna, Ray, Nancy & Chris Wilson; Ida; Cecilia Mowat & Family; Lorraine Whitwell; Celeste & parents; Stephanie; Alvin Maynard; Nova; Colleen; Irene; John; Kayla; Dorothy McIlravey & husband Chuck; Kim Middaugh; Wilma; Sally; Steve & Jade; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Karyn; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd.

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Martin Bertelsen; Stephen Bertelsen; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Rose McIntyre; Vayda; Daniel Leibovich; Barb Semsch; Rose Court; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Huronia Deanery