



SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

306 N. Division Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • www.standrewsaa.org

Sunday, April 19, 2020

The Second Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends:

The news of economic disruption from across the country is overwhelming. With so many people out of work or struggling with reduced income, providing the basic daily necessities has become more and more difficult. Locally, Food Gatherers is doing everything possible to meet this ever-increasing need of the residents of Washtenaw County. The people of St. Andrew's have a long history in supporting this work to help our neighbors.

Your generosity in previous St. Andrew's Food Drives has been truly inspiring. We had intended to begin our annual Lenten Food Drive for Food Gatherers at our services on Sunday, March 15. Unfortunately, that was the first Sunday church services needed to be cancelled because of

the COVID-19 crisis. At the time when the need is greatest, we were unable to organize an activity to collect your kind and generous donations to help feed those in our community who are facing difficult circumstances.

In lieu of our usual Food Drive this spring we have an alternate plan. If you are able, it would be wonderful if you could send a financial donation to Food Gatherers to help with the surging needs in Washtenaw County. Their address is:

Food Gatherers
1 Carrot Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Thank you, and we look forward to holding a traditional Food Drive this fall.

God bless, *Fr. Alan*



Above: The top of the Dorcas stained glass window at St. Andrew's

Hear the prelude as performed by Eric Plutz, University Organist at Princeton University: <https://youtu.be/1periV0SFbo>

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.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Response: Psalm 16

Hear the psalm as performed by the Choir of Exeter Cathedral:
https://youtu.be/ahvnKwSt_eE

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found

to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Hymn: *This Joyful Eastertide*

[Verses 2 & 3 switched]

Hear the hymn as performed by the Choir of King's College:
<https://youtu.be/5tipsbcfuB4>

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

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.

Anthem: *Christo Resurgenti*

François Couperin (1668-1733)

*To Christ now arisen, to Christ high in triumph his praise the skies proclaim.
Alleluia, alleluia. Through faith he redeems us and death has been vanquished,
let all people rejoice. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Hear the anthem as performed by St. Andrew's Adult Choir members
Celia Bridges, soprano and Deborah Friauff, alto: <https://youtu.be/xVyikMkwrPg>

The Prayers

Gracious God, grant us the spirit of generous self-giving that we may further the work of your Church and relieve those who are in need. Help us who have received so freely from you to give as freely in our turn, and so share the blessedness of giving as well as the happiness of receiving. We ask this in the name of him who gave himself for the life of the world, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon

Fr. Alan Gibson

In the Name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

In telling of the Resurrection, St. John is very graphic in his description of the marks of Christ's passion. John's point is that the Jesus who died on Good Friday is the same Jesus who rose from the dead on Easter. He wants us to understand that it's by those wounds on Jesus' body that we are given new life, even when death seems to be all around us, as it was for his disciples. The scars of his passion are the same scars the disciples saw. There's no attempt to hide them, because they are a part of who Jesus is. In these resurrection encounters St. John comes full circle with the theme that starts his gospel, "the Word became flesh and lived among us." (1:14)

What began as a story of flesh and blood is now complete with the triumph over the frailties of flesh and blood. The nail prints and the wound in Jesus' side show that salvation is offered to us just as we are, scars and all. These weeks of quarantine will leave their mark on all of us, and for some those will be serious scars. That is inevitable. Our scars are part of us, but they don't have to define who we are anymore than Christ's scars define him. The wounds on the body of the Risen Christ are a pledge of his commitment to stand by us, in our doubts, our worries, our sorrows and in our joys as well; that our wounds and hurts can be healed by his redeeming power. Jesus came to his fearful disciples in the moment of their greatest need, offering Peace, which he also offers us.

With that gift of Peace Christ breathed on his disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit, a breath that has sustained generations of believers who have

also come to believe. Like so many who have gone before us, we are asked to believe in something we've not seen with our eyes. We haven't seen Jesus in the flesh, nor heard his voice, nor felt his touch. But we can see, and hear, and feel him, in our own lives and in the lives of others, even while we are separated from so many of those we love.

Yet the Resurrection did not remove suffering from the world. The scars on Christ's body also show us that. If we see Christ in all that is good in our lives but miss him in the suffering that is around us, then we have missed the Christ who died for us. If we can't see the Christ who died for us, we'll never truly see the Christ who rose and lives for us.

Just like Thomas, who was lost when confronted with the crucified Christ, no one wants to look at suffering. Thomas needed help. All he saw in front of him was pain and disappointment. That overwhelmed him and blinded him to anything else. Jesus spoke to a hurt and sorrowful man, and gave him something else on which to focus. Something only he could give. When Thomas finally looked at Jesus, he found peace through the eyes of faith. The doubting Thomas became the apostle of the Resurrection and was the first to proclaim Jesus for who he is – Lord and God.

This same Jesus asks us to look at him with the same faith that he gave Thomas. He wants us to see him as the Lord and God who lived, died and rose to offer a new life that he seeks to share with us, just as we are: joys, and scars, and all. That was the vision that drove doubt from Thomas' heart and lead him to believe. Jesus offers us the same vision and asks us the same question, "Do you believe?"

Postlude: *Suite Médiévale, Op. 56* Jean Langlais (1907-1991)
V. Acclamations (using the chant 'Christus Vincit')

Hear the postlude as performed by Richard Gray, organ:
<https://youtu.be/CqW1RWk4DC0>

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Are you on our email list?

To be added to the church's email list, please contact Kathy McPherson at kmcpherson@standrewsaa.org.

Please know that your privacy is important to us. We do not add anyone to our email list until they have specifically requested it. If you know someone who isn't getting our emails, have them email Kathy.

