**Sunday April 11th 2021**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Collect**

Alpha and Omega,

our beginning and our end,

you break through the locks

of gated communities

and hardened hearts:

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.**

**Reading 1: Acts 4:32-35**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reading 2: 1 John 1:1-2:2**

*A reading from the First Letter of John*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**(Song: This is the day**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**that the Lord has made,**

**that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice, we will rejoice**

**and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**that the Lord has made.**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**when he rose again,**

**when he rose again;**

**we will rejoice, we will rejoice**

**and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when he rose again;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**when he rose again.**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**when the Spirit came,**

**when the Spirit came;**

**we will rejoice, we will rejoice**

**and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when the Spirit came;**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day**

**when the Spirit came. )**

**Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**(Song: Living Hope**

**How great the chasm that lay between us,**

**how high the mountain I could not climb.**

**In desperation, I turned to heaven**

**and spoke your name into the night.**

**Then through the darkness**

**your loving kindness**

**tore through the shadows of my soul.**

**The work is ﬁnished, the end is written**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope**

**Who could imagine so great a mercy?**

**What heart could fathom such boundless grace?**

**The God of ages stepped down from glory**

**to wear my sin and bear my shame.**

**The cross has spoken, I am forgiven,**

**the King of kings calls me his own.**

**Beautiful saviour, I'm yours forever,**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope**

**Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!**

**Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.**

**You have broken every chain,**

**there's salvation in your name,**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope.**

**Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!**

**Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.**

**You have broken every chain,**

**there's salvation in your name,**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope.**

**Then came the morning that sealed the promise;**

**your buried body began to breathe.**

**Out of the silence, the roaring lion**

**declared the grave has no claim on me.**

**Then came the morning that sealed the promise;**

**your buried body began to breathe.**

**Out of the silence, the roaring lion**

**declared the grave has no claim on me.**

**Jesus, yours is the victory, whoa!**

**Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!**

**Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.**

**You have broken every chain,**

**there's salvation in your name,**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope.**

**Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free!**

**Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me.**

**You have broken every chain,**

**there's salvation in your name,**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope.**

**Jesus Christ, my living hope**

**Oh God, you are my living hope. )**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Lord God our Father,

through our Saviour Jesus Christ

you have assured your children of eternal life

and in baptism have made us one with him:

deliver us from the death of sin

and raise us to new life in your love,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**(Hymn: Thine be the glory**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son:
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o’er death hast won.*

**Lo! 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 now liveth, death hath lost its sting.** *Chorus*

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love:
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.** *Chorus* **)**