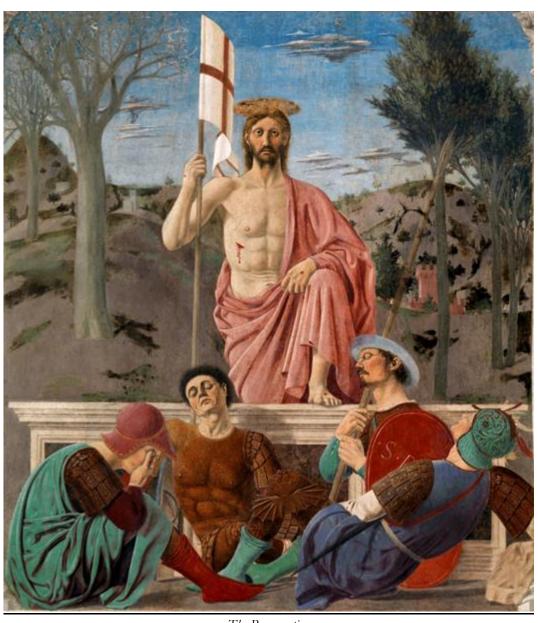
WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S CHAPEL

Open hearts, open minds, open doors

Ten O'clock in the Morning Sunday, April 9, 2023

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



The Resurrection Piero della Francesca, 1460

THE ENTRANCE RITE

When invited by the Celebrant, the People stand and turn to face the back of the nave.

Beginning at the Baptismal Font, the Celebrant prays

lmighty, everlasting God, look graciously upon the dedication of your people here born anew, who, like the deer, Λ desire the well-spring of your waters: and mercifully grant that by the mystery of baptism, the thirst of our faith may sanctify both soul and body. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The People and Leader say responsively:

Leader: I will take you out of the nations,

People: and gather you from every land, and bring you to your own soil.

Leader: I will sprinkle clean water over you,

People: and you shall be clean from all that defiles you;

Leader: I will cleanse you from the taint of all your idols.

People: I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you;

Leader: I will take the heart of stone from your body.

People: And give you a heart of flesh.

Leader: I will put my spirit into you and make you confirm to my statues;

People: you shall keep my laws and live by them.

Leader: You shall live in the land which I gave to your ancestors; you shall be my people,

People: and I will be your God.

Leader: All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.

All: We were buried therefore with Him through baptism into death: that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

The People turn forward to receive the blessing of water, during the music of Hymn 296

THE ASPERGES The Asperges is a reminder of Holy Baptism, which is our sacramental entrance into the Mystery of the Resurrection.

HYMN 296, V.1-3 (for the Vidi Aquam) We know that Christ is raised

Engelberg

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold; And our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death. Reborn we share with him an Easter life As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God. Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia! Amen.

Returning to the Font, the Celebrant says

t the tomb the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who \mathcal{L} was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sub Deacon: Christ is risen from the grave, alleluia, alleluia.

People: And has appeared to Mary of Magdala, alleluia, alleluia.

People: In the Name of Christ. Amen. Sub Deacon: Let us proceed in peace.

OPENING HYMN 207

Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured, Alleluia! now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
- 4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love, Alleluia! praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

At the footpace:

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

ALMIGHTY God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

HYMN 417

This is the Feast of Victory of our God

Those who have brought bells may ring them, energetically, during this hymn.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia!

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain) 2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. (Refrain) 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation. (Refrain)

4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb for ever. Amen. (Refrain) 5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia! (Refrain)

THE COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

BCP P. 222

BCP P. 355

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Let us pray.

Imighty 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.

The People are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON A Reading from the Acts of the Apostle

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118

Refrain: The righteous shall enter the gate of God.

R

O give thanks to God, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

*Let all Israel say,

"God's steadfast love endures
forever."

¹⁴God is my strength ánd my might; God has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The strong hand of God does valiantly;

16 the mighty hand of God is exalted; the strong hand of God does valiantly."

R

¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of God.

¹⁸God has punished me severely, but God did not give me over to death. ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

[∞]This is the gate of God; the righteous shall enter through it.

R.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. R

Easter 2 C vs. 14-29 (Alt.); vs. 25-29 are on following page. (May be sung with double tone.)

THE SECOND LESSON: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Col.3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader:

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand

GRADUAL: HYMN 179, V.1-2

"Welcome, happy morning!".

Refrain: "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say.

1 "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say: Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won

today! Lo! The dead is living, God for evermore! Him their true Creator, all his works adore! (Refrain) 2 Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring, all fresh gifts returned with her returning King:

bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough, speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now. (Refrain)

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

Gospeler: Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said, "All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life;

and I will raise them up on the last day."

People: Alleluia!

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel ★ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

A fter the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

GRADUAL: HYMN 179, v.3 & 6 "Welcome, happy morning!". Refrain: "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say.

3 Months in due succession, days of lengthening light, Hours and passing moments praise thee in their flight. Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea, Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee. (Refrain) 6 Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain; All that now is fallen raise to life again; Show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see; Bring again our daylight: day returns with thee! (Refrain)

The People are seated.

SERMON

The Rev'd Bennett Brockman, Ph.D.

After the sermon, the People stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP P. 358

e believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our

salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken

through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection \maltese of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASCHAL PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Subdeacon: Today we offer our joy that we celebrate your glorious resurrection with our brothers and sisters around the world. We pray for all who suffer persecution and oppression because of their faith, especially those in Myanmar, China, and Christians in the Mideast. Envelop your people, we pray, with a sense of your risen presence, and strengthen us to work tirelessly against racism and prejudice. We pray,

Be with us and bless us, O God.

Leader: For the household of faith, the church of the risen Christ; for our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey and Laura, our bishops, and all the faithful of this parish, we pray,

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for Joseph, our President, for the Congress and Supreme Court. For respect for the truth, for tolerance and goodwill to those who differ from us. For peace in the Ukraine; for political prisoners; for reasonable gun legislation, for immigrants at our border.

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for the whole world. God of creation you have given us a world of glorious diversity. Give us the eyes to see, and wills to protect, the beauty of your cosmos. For those who suffer from hunger. Lead us not only to share our wealth, but to enter with hope into the poverty of those who do not share our good fortune. We pray:

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for this community: help us see you in each member of this community. Keep before us the image of the Servant Jesus, that joined with him we remain ready to serve each other, we pray:

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for the sick and lonely, especially those whose needs are known to us whom we name now, either silently or aloud (pause). Give us courage to learn the names of others. Be present, through us, to those who need your comfort. God of compassion, open our hearts to bind and heal in your name.

Be with us and bless us, O God.

We pray for all who have died, and for whom memorial flowers have been given. God who loves us beyond the grave, we remember those who have died in the glorious hope of the resurrection, and we remember those who mourn, that they may be assured with that same hope. For all who have entered new life in Christ's resurrection, we pray:

Be with us and raise us, O God.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you." Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

HOLY COMMUNION

All who are baptized in any branch of Christ's Church are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Glutenfree wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a Blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let one of our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about Baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

OFFERTORY HYMN 208

The strife is o'er

PRAYER AT THE OFFERTORY (Celebrant)

I ord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven, may we know the glory of your resurrection, through Christ our risen Lord. **AMEN.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING BCP P. 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S-113

Holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Blessed is he * that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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 of 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, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with The Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a memorial of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

FRACTION S-155 (Sung)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

ANTHEM AT HOLY COMMUNION MY LORD WHAT A MORNIN'

My Lord what a mornin', My Lord what a mornin', Oh my Lord what a mornin', When the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways, Done quit all my worldly ways, Done quit all my worldly ways, Join that heavenly band.

My Lord what a mornin', My Lord what a mornin', Oh my Lord what a mornin', When the stars begin to fall.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The People stand.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. (in unison)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT (Celebrant)

We praise and we bless you, Lord God, for raising your Son in high triumph. Raise us also to life in him, that we may seek what is above, and set our affections on the imperishable, your kingdom and your justice, the food which endures to eternal life. **AMEN.**

PASCHAL BENEDICTION

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **AMEN.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **AMEN.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **AMEN.** AND the blessing *....

RECESSIONAL HYMN 182

Christ is alive!

DISMISSAL

Sub Deacon: He is not here. He is risen. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. **People: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Today the Son of God triumphs

J.S. Bach, BWV 530

WHAT PRECISELY HAPPENED?

"As we turn our gaze wider toward the rest of the New Testament and early Christianity we find Paul's perspective reaffirmed at every turn. The resurrection narratives of the Gospels, for all their puzzling nature and apparent conflicts, are quite clear on three points.

First, the sightings of and meetings with Jesus are quite unlike the sort of heavenly visitations or visions of a figure in blinding light or dazzling glory or wreathed in clouds that one might expect in the Jewish apocalyptic or mystical traditions. The portrait of Jesus himself in these stories does not appear to have been modeled on existing stories of "supernatural appearance." It was not created out of expectation alone.

Second, the body of Jesus seems to be both physical, in the sense that it was not a nonmaterial angel or spirit, and transphysical, in the sense that it could come and go through locked doors. ... They are, in effect, describing more or less exactly that for which Paul provides the underlying theoretical framework: an event for which there was no precedent and of which there remains as yet no subsequent example, an event involving neither the resuscitation nor the abandonment of a physical body, but its transformation into a new mode of physicality.

Third, the accounts are quite clear that the appearances of Jesus were not the sort of thing that went on happening during the continuing existence of the early church. ...

All attempts to show that the resurrection narratives in the Gospels are derived from other literature have conspicuously failed. Meanwhile, it is often noted that the tomb of Jesus was not venerated in the manner of the tombs of the martyrs, that we have to explain the emphasis in very early Christianity on the first day of the week as the Lord's Day. It is not so often pointed out that the burial of Jesus was intended as the first part of a two-stage burial; had his body been still in a tomb somewhere, someone would sooner or later have had to collect the bones and put them in an ossuary, and the game would have been up. These and similar considerations force the eye back to the first Easter day and to the question we have asked all along; what precisely happened?"

~ N.T. Wright, The Challenge of Easter

EASTER MEMORIALS

EASTER FLOWERS

IN MEMORY OF:

- Posey Armistead given by Sudie and Harry Evageliou
- Martin Fox given by Karla Fox
- My sister Laury Zerba given by Lynn Grabowski
- Elaine Bennion, Fred Bennion, Douglas Bennion, Katharine DeWolf, Theodore DeWolf given by John and Susan DeWolf
- The Hughes, Szymanski, Wright, and Southern family members that have passed given by Will and Mary Ann Hughes, and Rob and Mary Wright
- Clinton L Rossiter, Jr. given by Barbara Rossiter
- Bud and Bette Tatton, and Bud and Maria Sykes given by David and Gloria Sykes
- Robert B. Northrop given by Anne and Michael Connor
- Richard K. Alley given by Barbara Alley
- John Tryba, Millie Tryba, JR and Marie Piela, Chris Piela, and Rayleene Seyb given by Mary Jo Tryba
- Charlotte and Carl DeWoody, Venita K. Higgins, Warren Higgins, Gladys and Frederick Temple, Louise and Charles Dainton, Charles, Ethel and Chuck Anthes, Norman and Catherine Williams, Harold and Lucille Lewis, and Dorothy, Clarence and John Morgan given by Charles and Cynthia Dainton.

IN HONOR OF OR THANKSGIVING FOR:

- Our grandchildren given by Bruce and Rene Steinway
- Adelaide Northrop given by Anne and Michael Connor
- The wonderful friendship and thoughtfulness of my church family given by Barbara Alley
- Posey Armistead's life given by Sudie and Harry Evageliou
- Many thanks given by Bill and Marcia Zimmer
- Joe Piela and the St Mark's community given by Mary Jo Tryba
- Amanda N. Dainton and all of the blessings in our lives given by Charles and Cynthia Dainton
- Serving at St. Mark's given by Father Gary and Cindy Sturni.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUNDAY MINISTERS APRIL 9, 2023

Rite I, 8 am

- Altar Guild: Sue DeWolf
- Usher: John DeWolf
- Eucharistic Minister: Sue DeWolf
- Reader: Sue DeWolf
- Prayers of the People: Sue Gagnon
- Videographer: David Sykes

Rite II, 10 am

- Altar Guild John Doiron, Laurie Gypson
- Usher Mark Healey
- Eucharistic Minister Laurie Gypson
- Reader & Intercessor Bruce Steinway
- Videographer John Doiron
- Coffee Hour Paula Weinman

ST. MARK'S VESTRY:

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STAFF:

Director of Music: Charles Houmard Parish Administrator: Liz Roberts Sexton: Juan Osuba

Supply Priest: The Rev'd Gary K. Sturni, D.Min

THE EASTER SERMON OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

re there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.

He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.

The deed He honors and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed Hell when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said,

"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below." Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.

It was in an uproar because it is mocked.

It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.

It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.

It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see. O death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

The Easter sermon of John Chrysostom (circa 400 AD)

