

Christ the Lord Church, Pinole CA

April 26, 2020

The Third Sunday in Easter

Throughout the history of the Episcopal Church there have been times when no priests have been available, or the proper availability of the Eucharist was not possible. It was for those times that Morning prayer was used on Sundays as “feasting on the word.” Morning, or Evening prayer can be led by clergy or lay persons. At certain times in history Communion was only available quarterly or once a month to some parishes. We have again reached difficult liturgical times, and in person actual Communion may be sometime away, so here is an introduction to feasting on the word, as is modeled by today’s Gospel, most of the prayers and responses are directly from scripture and you can always attend the Eucharist by previous digital means.

Morning Prayer Rite Two

BCP (75) Easter season begins on p.77

Officiant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Officiant: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

People: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14*

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

Most merciful God,
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 neighbors 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.

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life. *Amen.*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
 therefore let us keep the feast,
 Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
 death no longer has dominion over him.
 The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
 but the life he lives, he lives to God.
 So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
 and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
 the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 For since by a man came death, *
 by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
 For as in Adam all die, *
 so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

“ May the words of My Mouth” The Vienna Chapel

A Reading from the Book of Acts

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore ever. Amen.

A reading from the Epistle of 1st Peter

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your

sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“Have you seen Jesus my Lord”. Alex Weiss

The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Christ.

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table

with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

Eckhart Tolle has been quoted saying “There is a hidden harmony inside all the chaos.” And although this might not be the Christian way of coining a phrase, it really comes down to the fact that there is something much bigger going on than we can imagine, and that is very clear in the examples of Jesus working in the lives of the first disciples and witnesses of the resurrection.

As some of you may already know, this is my favorite Easter story, and it is not read very often, and I am surprised how many do not know it very well. There is a picture in my office of the travelers on their way as they listen to Jesus. This story, to me, represents our current liturgy, and shows how feasting on the Word is as important as putting a piece of bread in your mouth.

This story is also a mirror to the Easter story preached two weeks ago. We have Jesus in the midst of these very passionate and distraught travelers, and they do not recognize him. At the tomb on Easter Day, Mary herself did not see clearly or recognize Jesus until he called to her. For our companions on their way to Emmaus, it took the breaking of the bread. Maybe there is a reason we don’t always see the inner workings of God.

Again, I repeat from Tolle, “There is a hidden harmony inside all the chaos.” For those first Christians, those of the Jewish decent, the only way to interpret the Torah was from their inside perspective, which, although it did look at times for a Messiah, the readings tended to be more about social justice and surviving as a culture with a history of slavery and abuse - whose God is present and will eventually hear their cries.

The men traveling to Emmaus did not realize that their cries had been heard and their prayers answered through the cruel punishment and death by the social establishment, of a prophet who was trying to explain that everything they think about God and heaven are upside down. The men on the road that day, could not even in their wildest dreams imagine that Jesus was actually walking beside them. Interestingly enough, Jesus keeps his identity secret until it is time to leave.

What a perfect metaphor for today's times. I know I am struggling with trying to imagine life after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Our whole economy, health system, food industry, technical lives, worship and everything in between has been affected. Yet I know Jesus is in the midst of all this difficulty, I just sometimes can't recognize him. Jesus, for me is that hidden harmony inside all the chaos.

Imagine Jesus strolling along with these two travelers and taking the very scriptures they were speaking about and clearing up their understanding. This is the first time scripture and the Word of God was put together in a way that pointed to the calm inside of the storm. Jesus did not detract from the pain of his ancestors, but instead started showing the plan designed to guide humankind in a much better direction. Yet the whole time he spoke, they did not see him.

The men on their way to Emmaus were feasting on the Word. Jesus' words burning in their hearts, even before they recognize him. Jesus was showing the hidden harmony within the struggles of his people. Perhaps Jesus was opening these travelers up to know the guidance of God was not only for the Hebrew nation but perhaps for the whole world, gentiles included. We really don't know the details.

That begs the question of why did Jesus disappear after blessing and breaking the bread? Scripture in Matthew 4 tells us that man does not live by bread alone, and this is where Jesus is when he is at table with these men. They have feasted on the Word, they are full, the bread and wine are the dessert. Jesus is the high priest by his teaching, his modeling of love and mercy in the world, but the human body needs some food, and yes, he can bless that too. But once fed, it is not time to sit around, but rather share and deepen the experience, as the travelers rejoined the disciples as first hand witnesses.

In a time of uncertainty, when we, the people of faith know that God will guide us through this, we, like our travelers to Emmaus must look to scripture, must bind our faith to the examples of how God has worked through means other than humans could imagine, and he will continue to do so. Maybe you too, can see the harmony in the chaos, or maybe things are still unclear. Maybe you feel like Jesus might be present, there is a burning in your heart, but the direction or the message you are receiving is not yet clear. What do I say to that? Welcome to world, and welcome to the wonderful tradition of preparing for whatever God has in store for you next by saying, yes.

There is harmony hidden inside the chaos, we need only to look for it. There is the peace of the Lord, if yet we can only allow ourselves to feel it. There is a blessing in every word of scripture, and still even every piece of bread that God has allowed you and your household to share.

My question to you today, as we feast on the Word is this. Have you seen Jesus my Lord?

9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus* *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
 I will trust in him and not be afraid.
 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
 and he will be my Savior.
 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
 from the springs of salvation.
 And on that day you shall say, *
 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
 Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
 see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
 and this is known in all the world.
 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
 for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

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.

Continuing together with the Lord's Prayer

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.

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
 R. *And grant us your salvation.*
 V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
 R. *Let your people sing with joy.*
 V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
 R. *For only in you can we live in safety*
 V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
 R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
 V. Let your way be known upon earth;
 R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
 V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
 R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
 V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
 R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving**Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness
 to us and to all whom you have made.
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,
 and all the blessings of this life;
 but above all for your immeasurable love
 in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Officiant may then conclude

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

*Thank you for joining our service to today. You may live Zoom coffee hour on Sunday at 11:00
am to 11:40am. Share your stories, your faces, and have a chat! God Bless!*