



Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16th 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

Processional.....#193 That Easter day a joy was bright

Greeting *Beginning on BCP p. 77*

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Presider continues with one or more of the following

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

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

The Invitatory and Psalter *BCP. 80*

All stand

Presider: Lord, open our lips

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: 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.

From Easter Day until Ascension

Presider: Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

People: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Song of Praise.....Rutter Gloria

The Psalm *Psalm 16*

Conserva me, Domine

- 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.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a,22-32

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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#192 This joyful Eastertide

The Third Reading

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Kent Miller

Apostle's Creed

BCP p 96

Presider and People together, all standing

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.

Lord's Prayer

BCP p 97

The people stand or kneel

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

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

The Prayers of the People: Suffrages A

BCP p 97

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.**

Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray:

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.

Collect for Sunday

BCP p. 98

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.**

Collect for Renewal of Life

BCP p. 99

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

BCP p. 100

(Choose only one Collect)

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or this

Presider: 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.**

Or the following

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So

clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you: for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn.....#318 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face

The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 101

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 our selves 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.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Closing Hymn.....#203 O sons and daughters, let us sing

Then may be said

Presider: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Presider may then conclude with one of the following

- Presider:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*
- Presider:* May the God of hope fill us with all the joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*
- Presider:* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude.....Matt Palisch, Organist

This Service’s Servers

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|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Presider</i> | Bob Lowe |
| <i>Preacher</i> | Kent Miller |
| <i>Reader</i> | Brooke Clubbs |
| <i>Greeter</i> | Judi Naeter |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Deb Brewer |
| <i>St. Isidore’s Guild</i> | James Boyer |
| <i>Vestry Counter</i> | Toni Alexander |
| <i>Organist</i> | Matt Palisch |

Easter Lilies donated by

Don & Sandy Ballestro in memory of our parents.

Jeff & Jeri Faroage in memory of Greg Dunlap with thanksgiving for Lucy Brug.

Dan & Paula Fetherston with thanksgiving for family & friends for all the support & prayers.

Tyler Helm in memory of Jeanette Telle with thanksgiving for her presence in my life.

Annette & Richard Joseph with thanksgiving for the people of Christ Church.

Elizabeth, Frank, Will, Bruce, & Virginia Rose Miller in memory of Marcia Sikes.

Monica Waldon in memory of Wash & Gayle Ozbirn.

Joe & Mary Regenhardt in memory of my Mom & Dad & brother, Margeret, Harry & Goff Thompson, Joe's family Mom & Dad, Margaret & William Regenhardt with thanksgiving for families.

Easter Lilies may be picked up today after the service.

Notes on the Service

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 • Ps 16 • I Pet 1:3-9 • Jn. 20:19-31

The 7th century collect, composed for use during Easter Week, prays that those who have been initiated into the Paschal covenant, i.e., baptized, may display their faith in their lives. From as early as the 2nd century until perhaps as late as the 8th, Easter was the season preferred for baptizing converts, a practice which the '79 Prayer Book revived. The Acts shows apostles in the 1st century baptizing regardless of the season.

Because Acts continues the Easter story of redemption, during Eastertide the lectionary provides selections from Acts in place of readings from the Hebrew Bible customary at other seasons. These selections are sermons by Peter, Stephen, and Paul which follow a pattern of outlining Jewish history, arguing that Jesus completes that history, and asking their hearers to accept Jesus as the messiah. Today's excerpt is set at Pentecost, immediately after the giving of the Spirit (John's account of that Spirit-giving will be today's Gospel). Peter explains the meaning of Spirit-giving, sketching Jesus' life and resurrection. His resurrection was foretold, says Peter, by Psalm 16, composed by the "patriarch and prophet" David. Believing Christ's resurrection is the principal topic of today's readings.

The verse of Psalm 16 which Acts uses to claim that David promised that the Messiah would rise from the dead is v 10, "...you will not abandon me to the grave; nor let your holy one see the Pit." This psalm is the song of a convert from paganism who resolves not even to name his former gods nor to take part in their worship. The unidentified convert hopes that the God of Israel who has prospered him in life will not forsake him when he is near death, or will rescue him from the pit of death, sheol, Hebrew for the underworld, or hades/hell.

Epistles during Eastertide will be from I Peter about baptism and Christ's resurrection and their implications for Christians living under ostracism or even persecution. This work might be based on preaching by Peter; or it could have been written by a philosophically-minded assistant of his. The opening address commends those who "without having seen him [Christ] you love him," like today's Gospel blessing on "those who have not seen and yet believe." Among those who did not see him and yet believed was Molly Brant, Konwatsijayenni, a witness among the Mohawk tribe in 18th century New York, whose feast is April 16.

John placed the giving of the Spirit to the apostles on Easter night. Christ's breathing onto the apostles is like the Creator's breathing life into Adam. This Breather of the new creation re-appears the next Sunday to convince doubting Thomas of his resurrection.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina