

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

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

**Gospel:** John 20: 19 - end

**Proclamation:**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Prayer.**

Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Psalm: 133**

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
3 It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

**Song:** (click link) Here I am to worship <https://youtu.be/03G52K9X2hQ>

**Invitation to Confession:**

Jesus says;

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand”

So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Confession:**

Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.    Amen.

**Absolution:**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins  
and restore us in His image  
to the praise and glory of His name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.    Amen.

Blessed be the Lord  
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
and in our song will we praise our God.

**Reading 1: Acts 4: 32 – 35**

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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.*

**Gospel: John 20: 19 – end**

<sup>19</sup> 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.' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to

them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>4</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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.'

<sup>26</sup> 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.' <sup>27</sup> 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.' <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> 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.'

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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 be to you, O Christ.*

**Talk:** (click link) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsV4\\_XvCFEI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsV4_XvCFEI)

*Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## **The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for the world that you have created.  
Help us to be aware of our responsibility to look after that which you have made.

Lord in your mercy;                hear our prayer.

As we pray for our world, so we pray for those that make decisions on our behalf; we pray for the world leaders to make right choices as we move on from coronavirus and continue to administer the vaccines;

help our leaders to make joint decisions for the wellbeing of all people.

Lord in your mercy,                hear our prayer.

In our own country we pray for our Queen especially in this time of bereavement, and for her family. We ask, Lord, for your comfort and consolation for them and wisdom to reign in the hearts of our sovereign, and all politicians, that they may lead us into faithfulness and truth.

Lord in your mercy,                hear our prayer.

The church is looking forward to a time of meeting together again, so we pray for the church leaders, our Archbishops and Bishops, as they meet to discuss the ways that churches can reopen. Give them, our church leaders and all church leaders, discernment gifts to bring the church together to worship you. Unite us Lord in praise of who you are.

Lord in your mercy,                hear our prayer.

We pray for our local area; all those churches on the Dengie peninsula.

Draw people we pray, to worship you our living God,

we ask that your Holy Spirit moves the hearts of all who reside in this deanery,

and that we will see many lives transformed for your glory.

Lord in your mercy,                hear our prayer.

We bring before you today, those who are on our hearts for prayer, and those that we do not know, yet you know.....

Bring your healing, both physically and spiritually, that they may know the goodness of our God.

Lord in your mercy,                hear our prayer.

And we pray for each other,  
that we will grow in knowledge and love of you,  
our heavenly Father. **Amen.**

Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your only son  
our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Silence is kept.***

**Collect:**

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come  
Your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom the power and the glory  
are yours now and forever.        Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God  
and give Him thanks.*

**Song:** (click link)    *Wonderful, merciful Saviour*        <https://youtu.be/z8T0br5JfAA>

**Blessing:**

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life: Amen.  
May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the  
knowledge and love of God and of His son Jesus Christ our Lord.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;  
Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us, and remain with us  
and all those whom we love,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

**Song:** (click link)

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee  
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.  
Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.*