**Sunday 18th April 2021**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Reading 1:** Acts 3: 12 - 19

**Gospel: Luke 24: 36b - 48**

**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.

**Psalm: 4**

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
    You gave me room when I was in distress.  
    Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**2**How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame?  
    How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*  
**3**But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;  
    the Lord hears when I call to him.

**4**When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
    ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*  
**5**Offer right sacrifices,  
    and put your trust in the Lord.

**6**There are many who say, ‘O that we might see some good!  
    Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!’  
**7**You have put gladness in my heart  
    more than when their grain and wine abound.

**8**I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
    for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

**Song:** *(click link)* O Come To The Altar [https://youtu.be/OpfuKKH\_SCE](about:blank)

**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 3: 12 – 19**

**12**When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13**The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14**But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15**and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16**And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

**17**‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18**In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. **19**Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel: Luke 24: 36b – 48**

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ **37**They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38**He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39**Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ **40**And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41**While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate in their presence.

**44**Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46**and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things.

*This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.*

**Talk:** *(click link)* [https://youtu.be/txIWbPNWsFU](about:blank)

*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**

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We give you thanks:

for his long and full life;

for his strength of character;

and for his devotion and service to family, nation and Commonwealth.

We praise you for:

his generosity;

the many contributions he made to our national life;

and the encouragement he gave to so many, especially to the young.

*A moment of silence*

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church,

Jesus, Lord of the Church

In your mercy, hear us.

You have called us into the family of those who are children of God

May our love for our brothers and sisters

be strengthened by your grace,

We pray especially for………………………

Jesus, Lord of the Church

In your mercy, hear us.

You have called us to be a temple

where the Holy Spirit can dwell.

We pray especially for………………………

Give us clean hands and pure hearts,

so that our lives can reflect your holiness.

Jesus, Lord of the Church

In your mercy, hear us.

You have called us to be a light to the world,

so that those in darkness come to you.

We pray especially for………………………

May our lives shine

as a witness to the saving grace you have given for all.

Jesus, Lord of the Church

In your mercy, hear us

You have called us to be members of your body

so that when one suffers, all suffer together

We pray especially for………………………

We ask for your comfort and healing power

to bring hope to those in distress

and wholeness to those who are sick

Jesus, Lord of the Church

In your mercy, hear us

You have called us to be the Bride

where you Lord are the Bridegroom

Prepare us for the wedding feast,

where we will be united with you forever.

Jesus, Lord of the Church

Hear our prayer,

and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you with joy forever. Amen.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your only son

our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Silence is kept.**

**Collect:**

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,

to the glory 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)* By The Grace Of God [https://youtu.be/iZr8218\_\_Jg](about:blank)

**Blessing:**

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight:………………

……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.*