

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
EASTER 2
APRIL 7, 2024
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we continue on the Easter path, we remember that our sacred space and the places we call home lie on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

People: **May we share the land in a spirit of reconciliation and justice for all.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

Fr. Michael: We have not seen the risen Christ,

People: **but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.**

Fr. Michael: We have not seen Jesus face to face,

People: **but we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.**

Fr. Michael: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

People: **but we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world. Alleluia!**

(from Thom Shum, Lectionary Liturgies 2020)

Fr. Michael: As a community called and gathered, together we pray, Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Fr. Michael: And now with all the saints in heaven and those gathered here on earth, we celebrate our relationship with the Lord as we say, Glory to God in the highest,

People: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: God, we are in a liminal space, one where chaos and disorder have confused our lives, yet where we also find time to rest and receive your gift of peace. We sit with the disciples behind the locked doors and we wait in fear, and when you appear, we are given a spirit of peace which only you can give. Hold us in your grace this morning, offering us the same hopeful word you offered those frightened disciples that Easter evening so many years ago. We pray this all in the name of your Son, our risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: **Amen**

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4: 32-35) Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead for He is alive and has become the Lord of Life. From the waters of death you raise us with Him and renew Your gift of life within us. You redeem us in the blood of Christ and give us new birth in the Spirit. We thank you and pray that as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, you would increase our awareness of these blessings and increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Him. Help us to grow as your people, Lord.

All: **Amen** (The Reverend Richard Fairchild, Kir-shalom website)

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 133

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *

All: **when brethren live together in unity!**

Reader: It is like fine oil upon the head *

All: **that runs down upon the beard,**

Reader: Upon the beard of Aaron, *

All: **and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**

Reader: It is like the dew of Hermon *

All: **that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

Reader: For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *

All: **life for evermore.**

Reader: Creator of the universe, from whom all things come, to whom all things return, give your people such unity of heart and mind, that all the world may grow in the life of your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: A reading from the First letter of John to the Church That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 1: 1 – 2:1)

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus. Erase all our excuses for unbelief and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding all our steps. In his blessed name we pray.

All: **Amen** (Nancy C. Townley, from Worship Connections)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Risen Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. John (St. John 20: 19-31)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Fr. Michael: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. We, the living Church, affirm our faith as we say, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

All: 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.

Reader: Rejoicing in the mighty acts of our God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Let us thank God for the multitude of blessings so freely given to us – for our lives and for those whom we love and those who love us, for the beauty of this world which God has created and called us to shared stewardship with him; for our families, friends and all our friendships; let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer**

Reader: Let us pray for the Church, that she may carry forth the redemptive works of God. In our diocese we remember this day, Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Diocese of Jerusalem and Archbishop Hosam Naoum, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Bishop Susan Johnson and Bishop Michael Pryse. We also remember Julian of Norwich and The Reverend John Bridges, interim priest and Deacon Elizabeth December and all who minister there. We pray particularly for our bishops and the clergy who share ministry with them; for the lay leadership in our parishes and for all those gathered this day in their sacred spaces to offer prayer and worship, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the newly baptized or confirmed, that the joy of Easter may ever grow within them and that the Spirit may guide them in lives of active faith; for these persons, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for all the nations of our world, particularly where war and conflict destroy lives of the innocent, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa, and in our own cities. Let us pray that the powers that oppress and destroy may be defeated and that your shalom may flood this good earth. For this, let us raise our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer**

Reader: Let us pray for those who are sick or suffering, the lonely, the lost, the abandoned, the victims of domestic violence; for those who have received devastating word this week, that the hope born at Easter may fill them with peace, acceptance and renewal of mind, body and spirit and that they and we may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores. Let us pray for Kelly, Marilyn, Liesa, Louise, Randy, Leonard, Marjorie, Beth, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone.

People: **Risen Lord, accept these our prayers and equip us for service in your name.**

Amen

(from Liturgies and Hymns by Stephen Fearing 2021, adapted by RMF)

Reader: Living God, we thank you that through the resurrection of Jesus our lives and ministries are transformed. Give us humble and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have made known to us. May we be bold in serving you and bringing your Good News to our communities. Help us to share of ourselves and our possessions with one another and especially with people in need. **Amen.**

Fr. Michael: When we keep our faults and our failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess, or so we think! But God comes into our hearts when we least expect so we can be filled with forgiveness, hope and peace. Let us open before the Lord, saying,

People: **God of empty tombs and emptier people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us and give us your voice; when we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us and give us a share of fresh compassion; when we want to stand with the high and the mighty, forgive us and give us seats with the poor and the oppressed; when we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us and send us out to share your grace; when we cannot believe your Word of New Life, forgive us and fill us with your joy.**

Fr. Michael: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light and hope of Easter; Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes to fill us with peace, so that we may proclaim the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness. Know that you are loved, forgiven and cherished today and always. **Amen.**

May the peace and love of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE SHARE THE PEACE AND HOPE OF THE RISEN CHRIST ONE WITH ANOTHER.

Fr. Michael: God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ. Accept all that we offer you this new day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Risen Saviour.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr., Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and with one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world. When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak and those who are broken and alone whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and saying,

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Fr. Michael: Blessed are you, O holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness, you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile, you wept with them by the river of Babylon and you carried them home.

People: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Fr. Michael: At the right time, you sent your Anointed Son to stand with the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. Jesus touched the lepers and the sick, and he healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love. On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus at supper with his friends took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body 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 this, do this for the remembrance of me." Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope,

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Fr. Michael: Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all those whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

People: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Fr. Michael: Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and forevermore.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now as Christ has gifted to his Church, so we pray,

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

Fr. Michael: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People: Now we are raised to new life.

Fr. Michael: We were buried in your tomb.

People: Now we share in your resurrection.

Fr. Michael: Live in us that we may live in you.

The gifts of God for the children of God

People: Thanks be to God

WE SHARE THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE NEW WINE OF THE KINGDOM

Fr. Michael: Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our fingers the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in our love for you and for each other; through Jesus

Christ our Risen Lord. Amen People: God of the open road, God of the twisting path, God of the narrow and upward way, your people have gathered for worship. In this hour, you have given us provisions for the journey, courage and faith and compassion and endurance to face any hardship. Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, protecting us, encouraging us, loving us; we pray this in the name of Jesus, who moves us. **Amen** (from re:Worship 2019)

Fr. Michael: In the evening when the disciples met frightened behind locked doors, you come to them with words of peace. For wicked plots have failed, and the cruelty of the world has come to nothing while the betrayal and denial of friends have not prevailed. Life-giving God, we give you thanks for Jesus has risen and He comes to us with words of Shalom. Come to us today; in government rooms where politicians meet; in city and village board rooms where executives plan; in courtrooms where lawyers debate – come with words of peace. In hospital rooms where people are waiting, in prison cells where people are afraid, in homes where folk struggle to make ends meet – come with words of Shalom. Come to us whenever and wherever we are afraid or when we are grieving. Come to us now and help us to pray for those we care for and are worried about. Despite the strong and solid doors we lock to protect ourselves, to shut out the world – come to us with words of peace. This Eastertide, breathe on us again with your Spirit, for you have overcome all evil and wicked plots fail. And when the cruelty of the world comes to nothing and the betrayal and denial of friends do not prevail, - come to us with words of Shalom.

All: **Alleluia** (Susan Miller from Starters for Sunday 2020)

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you.

People: **from God who was, and is, and is to come.**

Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you;

People: **from the Holy Spirit, who is before God's throne and at work in God's Church.**

Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you;

People: **from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**

Fr. Michael: To him who loves us,

People: **and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom and ministers to serve his God and Father, to him be the power and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Lord our God, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last who was and is and is to come. Keep us always in your arms and that peace of God which passes all our understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of you; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us, those we love and those who love us today and always.

All: **Amen** (from Leading in Worship 2017)

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