

Third Sunday of Easter
Year B, April 26, 2009

COLLECT

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Peter proclaims Jesus' resurrection publicly to the people of Jerusalem for the first time, then tells the people that Jesus has lived out God's plan for salvation.

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw the astonishment of those who had seen the lame man healed, 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? 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 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. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

PSALM 4 Page 587, BCP

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
 you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
 how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
 when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
 speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
 Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
 more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
 for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

We no longer are forced to stumble through the darkness of sin because we share fellowship with the risen Lord and are children of light.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Jesus appears to his disciples and explains to them the scriptural prophecies of his resurrection.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

While the disciples were telling how they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. 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." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Prayers of the People, BCP 389

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For *Katherine*, our Presiding Bishop, for Nedi, our Assisting Bishop, for our Standing Committee and for Lee, the Canon of Transition; for Janet our Rector, Stephen our Deacon; and Rusty, John, Lewis our retired clergy; for all of our congregation in their various ministries, especially our children and youth ministers and all those who reach out to encourage and support the young people and those who minister to them, especially Denise Beasley, Don and Monte Dickinson, Sally Forster, Gretchen Kimsey, Mary Ellen Lowe, Kim McCullough and Pam Miller.

For all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, especially Barack, our president, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disasters, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from bitterness and hardness of heart, and ship forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers: Linda and Tracy, Charlie, John, Art and Jane, Lloyd, Jenni and Philip; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our parish family; and this week in our cycle of prayer, especially for Sharon Bailey, Lynne Gill, Jerry Frazier, Sam Woolsey and Pat Smith that we give thanks and pray to you, O Lord.

For the community church cycle of prayer, Zion Lutheran and Pastor Chris Kramer; for the Diocesan cycle of prayer, St. Brigid-in-the-Pines Community Church, Sumpter, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of blessed Paul and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.