

## *Second Sunday of Easter*

*Year B, April 19, 2009*

### COLLECT

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.**

*The power of the good news in Christ changes the lives of Jesus' earliest followers. Through grace, the community grows and cares for each of its members.*

### FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

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. With great power the apostles gave 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 owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### PSALM 133 Page 787, BCP

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*when brethren live together in unity!  
2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*that runs down upon the beard,  
3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*and runs down upon the collar of his robe.  
4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*life for evermore.

*Followers of Christ are called to walk in the light of God. If they confess their sins, they can find forgiveness through Jesus.*

### SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the

message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*The risen Lord reveals himself to several of the disciples. In a second appearance, Thomas is convinced of the resurrection only when he personally encounters the risen Savior.*

#### GOSPEL: 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.

## Prayers of the People for the Easter Season, 2009

In this glorious Easter season, we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and proclaim the wondrous acts our God has done.

***We are an Easter people. Alleluia is our song!***

Let us pray for the Church.

We pray for our sisters and brothers in the Anglican Communion.

We pray for the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and our brothers and sisters who share our ministry in this diocese.

We pray for the churches of other denominations with whom we share ministry in this town and county. May we grow together as the Body of Christ, and proclaim in unity the Good News.

***Lord, you are the way, the truth and the life. Give us the grace to reflect you by word and example.***

At this time of hope and promise for our parish and our diocese, we pray for Katharine, our Presiding Bishop; Nedi, our Bishop; Janet, our Rector; Stephen, our Deacon.

And we pray for our retired clergy, Rustin, John, Lewis, and Robert.

We pray for the diverse ministries of all members of this congregation.

***Christ, our guide, may we know our gifts and offer them to you for the fulfillment of the mission and ministry to which we are called.***

Let us pray for our nation and for our leaders.

***Christ, our hope, may our public and private wealth and privilege be used as a blessing to the world.***

We pray for the whole world. God of creation, who created all people in your own image, give us eyes to behold the beauty of the wondrous and glorious diversity you have created.

Give us hearts and minds to know and serve the common good.

***Christ, our Redeemer, help us to strive for justice and peace among all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves.***

We pray for the hungry, the homeless, the needy, those facing job insecurities or any personal difficulty.

*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Christ the Good Shepherd, guide us to work with you in our community.***

We pray for those who are ill, disabled, facing medical uncertainties, or in any need or trouble, that they may be made whole. We pray for caregivers needing strength, wisdom and encouragement.

We remember especially those who trust us to pray for them.  
*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Christ the healer, be present with and through us, to those who need your comfort.***

We pray for all feeling confined in any of numerous ways. Remove despair and infuse a sense of purpose and value.  
*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Christ the key holder, unlock the chains that bind us. Resurrect our spirits in your freedom to allow us to bloom even in a gutter.***

This Sunday we ask your blessing upon the members of this parish.  
*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Lord of life, may we see and celebrate the sacred in each of our everyday lives.***

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. We pray for parents, spouses, children and loved ones of those in the service.  
*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Lord of all, grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.***

We pray for all who seek God or a deeper knowledge of him.  
***Christ the seeker, we pray that all may find and be found by you***

We give thanks and pray for the lives those who have died. Comfort those who mourn.  
*People may add intercessions and petitions silently or aloud.*

***Risen Lord, be known to them in the new life of hope offered through your resurrection.***

God whose spirit dwells equally in light and dark, suns and stars, day and night, life and death, you and I.  
***God bless us all – growing together in God’s garden.***

Lord of all, we praise you and thank you that through your glorious resurrection you redeem humankind and renew your whole creation. Grant that we who celebrate the joy of the Risen Christ be raised to new life in Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

***We are an Easter people. Alleluia is our song! Amen.***