

Sunday 26th April 2020

The Third Sunday of Easter

White



Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Acts 2:14-41 English Standard Version (ESV)

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

2¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

COMMENT: The conclusion to Peter's sermon at Pentecost in call for repentance and baptism, and a promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit had spectacular results. Thousands responded and became members of the new faith community. These astonishing events emphasised that the early church saw the resurrection as proof that Jesus was God's promised Messiah.

Luke 24:13-35 English Standard Version (ESV)

On the Road to Emmaus

24 ¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has

appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Footnotes: a. Greek *sixty stadia*; a *stadion* was about 607 feet or 185 metres.

COMMENT: This narrative ascribes the fundamental Christian re-interpretation of the Old Testament scriptures to the risen Christ himself. It typifies the revolution in scriptural exegesis which was effective in the primitive church – that of an examination of the Old Testament (then the only Scriptures) to find out more about the Messiah. This passage is a favourite resurrection story and traces the disciples’ despair at the death of Jesus to the joy of knowing that he is alive and still with them. Two significant facts about the faith of the early church come to the fore: 1) The apostolic community based its faith on the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ/Messiah as foreshadowed throughout the Jewish Scriptures. 2) The community centred around the celebration of Jesus’ death for our sins in a fellowship meal. Later, this observance developed into the ritual of the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper) – in the reading today we see the shape of the Eucharist – The Scriptures are explained and we meet the Lord in the breaking of bread. There is also that wonderful phrase in the reading; “it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.”

Psalm 16 *Conserva me, Domine* Grail Psalter

℟ Show us, Lord, the path of life.

¹ Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

² I say to the Lord: “You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone.” ℟

³ He has put into my heart a marvelous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.

⁴ Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips. ℟

⁵ O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.

⁶ The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me! ℟

⁷ I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

⁸ I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. ℟

⁹ And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

¹⁰ For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

℟ Show us, Lord, the path of life.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **℟**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

COMMENT. This song of thanksgiving praises God for an apparent recovery from critical illness. It may have been sung by an individual worshiper making a thank-offering in the presence of a congregation gathered in the temple court.

Short Preface

But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Post Communion

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

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 you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**