

April 24, 2022 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

GATHERING SONG: No. 243 – “Be Not Afraid”

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy Easter Season! Today is the first day of the week. We come to celebrate the risen Lord.

The joy of Easter still sings in our hearts.

Breathe the breath of new life in your spirits!

We open our hearts to worship God. May the Spirit breathe the breath of new life into us. Let us feel the power of God's love and the wonder of the resurrection.

Welcome to worship this glorious day!

Let our lives be testimony to God's redeeming love!

OPENING HYMN: No. 268 – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;

his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:

no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye

at mysteries so bright.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Adapted from Avery Arden*

<https://binarybreakingliturgy.com>)

**We confess that we are bystanders and collaborators
in the stifling of God's children as they call out "I can't breathe".**

But we cannot bear to listen.

We would prefer to bury, not to say, their names.

Our siblings across the world

are desperate for resources

**but in our dread of scarcity and the idolatry of nationalism, we
hoard what we have.**

We numb ourselves to stories of their needs, for the breath of life.

**But how can we pay attention to all this suffering? Central
America, Afghanistan, Ukraine, or own cities and backyards.**

We languish under compassion fatigue,

a sense of helplessness or disconnect.

**Our planet chokes on the fossil fuels we rip from its depths
as we burn its lungs, the rainforests, to the ground.**

**To slow our consumption would mean drastic changes
in our everyday lives, and an active struggle against
the main culprits of climate change —
a select number of corporations that seem invincible.**

It is just too much.

O God, it is all too much, and we are too small.

We forget that we are one Body, *your* Body.

We forget that you call us not to complete these colossal tasks,

But to do our small part,

to strive *even* when all seems hopeless.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

AMEN.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 456 – “Listen, God is Calling”**

Listen,

Listen, God is calling,

through the Word inviting,

offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy. (repeat)

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:13-21 and John 20:19-31

SERMON: “Breathe”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 286 – “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Breathe on me, Breath of God,

fill me with life anew,

that I may love the way you love,

and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church, May 2005*

We are a community of faith.

We share a vision of God:

a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing,
the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness,
the spirit which pervades everything.

We search for the meaning of God and our own experience
revealed in those sacred stories which have been passed down to
us.

We tell them again and again:

**Of God the Creator, the Almighty,
who made everything that is,
and saw that it was good.**

**Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us,
healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died.
He forgave those who crucified him.
In the mystery of the resurrection
he continues to live more profoundly through the ages,
the Incarnation of Love, the Christ,
to whom his disciples have responded “My Lord and my God!”**

**He shows us the Way which leads
to the reconciliation of all things, saying
“Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.”
It is the Way of love, compassion, justice, forgiveness and peace.**

**Of the Spirit, the Breath, the Wind of God,
the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom,
who inspires the people of God
to cry out for justice for the powerless and oppressed,
to see the presence of God in every created thing,
and to respond with love.**

Of the communion of saints: all the people of God,

**living, dead and yet to be born,
who are empowered to recognize that they are,
and always have been,
brothers and sisters,
one family in God.**

**We are reborn in the Spirit,
followers of that Way shown by Jesus:**

**to love God with our whole being;
to love our neighbors as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us;
to strive for justice and peace;
to have respect and compassion for every person
and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm;
to love one another as Christ has loved us.**

**We journey together on this Way
towards reconciliation with the whole creation.
We break bread together and pray together.
We reach out to one another
for strength beyond our own.**

This is our community. This is our faith.

CALL TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY: No. 240 – “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: No. 245 – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today!”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 243 – “Be Not Afraid”

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Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
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April 24, 2022

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