



The Third Sunday of Easter

‘Give us knowledge of Christ’s presence with us’

St. Matthew’s Church, Irishtown

Sunday 1st May 2022

THE GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn 58 - Morning has broken

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.

I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die,
but we will all be changed.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death is your sting?

Thanks be to God,
***who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

(from 1 Cor. 15)

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death, and among us now,
make yourself known to us in our worship, in the teaching of your Word, in the
fellowship of your people,
and in the breaking of the bread. ***Amen.***

PENITENCE

‘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.”’

(John 20:19)

In this Easter season we bring our fears and failings to the risen Christ.

When we are faced with a challenge but regress into old attitudes ...
Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy***

When we allow past hurts to undermine our present relationships ...
Christ, have mercy. ***Christ, have mercy.***

When we face difficult times but fail to trust in your loving purposes ...
Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***

When we look inwards to our selfish concerns rather than outwards to a world
in need ...
Christ, have mercy. ***Christ, have mercy.***

When we are agents of gloom rather than messengers of hope ...
Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***

May Almighty God have mercy on *us*,
forgive *us our* sins
and bring *us* to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ...

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.***

First Reading. Acts 9:1-20

9 In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying
he would kill them. So he went to the high priest ² and asked him to write letters
to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give
him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ’s
Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring
them back to Jerusalem.

³ So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. ⁴ Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?"

⁵ Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. ⁶ Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

⁷ The men travelling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

¹⁰ There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!"

Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. ¹² Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again."

¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating some food, his strength returned.

Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. ²⁰ Soon he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 581 - I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Second Reading John 21:1-19.

21 Later, Jesus showed himself to his followers by Lake Galilee. This is how it happened: ² Some of the followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. ³ Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish."

The other followers said, "We will go with you." So they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

⁴ Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then he said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

⁶ He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

⁷ The follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his coat around himself. (Peter had taken his clothes off.) Then he jumped into the water. ⁸ The other followers went to shore in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. ⁹ When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire, and there was bread.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."

¹¹ Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. Even though there were so many, the net did not tear. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the followers dared ask him,

“Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

¹⁵ When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John do you love me more than these?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ A third time he said, “Simon son of John do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!”

He said to him, “Take care of my sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth. When you were younger, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands and someone else will tie them. They will take you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹ (Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me!”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

***Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;***

***he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;***

afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:

this we have received, and this we believe. (1 Cor. 15:3-7)

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

***We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Hymn 93 - I Danced in the morning

INTERCESSIONS

Father in heaven, we pray for those who are confused in their faith and despondent about life ...

Grant that we may encourage each other on the journey of faith, and know Christ’s presence as we learn from the Scriptures.

Merciful Father, ***hear us we pray.***

We pray for all who have recently discovered the reality of the risen Christ ... Strengthen the Church, Archbishop Michael, and all who minister, to nourish faith through sound teaching, spiritual worship and pastoral care.

Merciful Father, ***hear us we pray.***

We pray for those who are experiencing the horrors of war, brutal persecution, or lonely exile from their homeland ...

Guide our President, and governments of all nations, to create the conditions for peace and justice to flourish.

Merciful Father, ***hear us we pray.***

We pray for the Church when, as the first disciples found, its efforts to evangelise seem fruitless, and numbers are low ...

Inspire us to find new ways of proclaiming the gospel in today’s culture.

Merciful Father, ***hear us we pray.***

We pray for church leaders when, like Simon Peter, they suffer personal failure, criticism and a loss of self-confidence ...

Renew their response to Christ’s call to feed his flock, and strengthen us to work together in the Church’s ministry.

Merciful Father, ***hear us we pray.***

We pray for those who suffer from ill-health or cope with disability ...

We remember those who have died and all who mourn ...

Keep hope alive when the burdens of life grow heavy.

Merciful Father, **hear us we pray,**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymn 386 - Spirit of God unseen as the wind

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you
to walk with him in his risen life.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Blessing

Live streamed from St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown www.stmatts.live

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