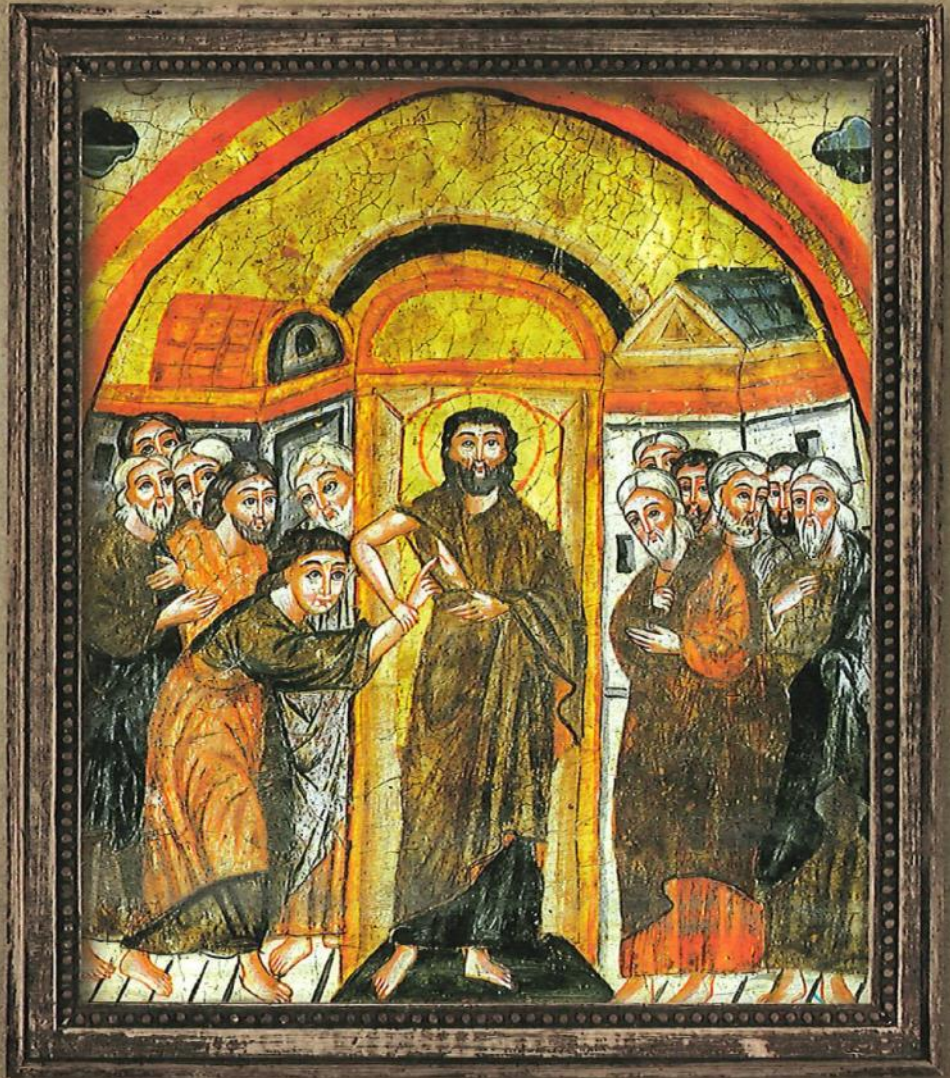


Peace
be with you JOHN 20:19



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

The 10:30 AM Liturgy is live streamed. Please be aware that conversations are all audible to those viewing from home.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required inside,

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered.

Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave:

Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family.

We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 11, 2021
Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Michael Burkhardt

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Let us pray,

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

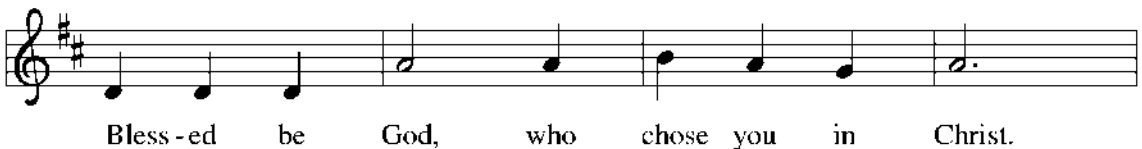
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

During the sprinkling with water, ELW #215 "Blessed be God Who Chose You", will be sung 4 times; first by the Cantor, then Women, Men and All



APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sung by the cantor. People join at C

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

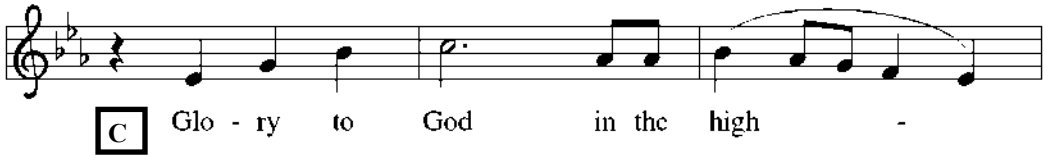
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . . Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ or Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now a forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 133 *spoken responsively*

¹ Oh, how good and pleas- | ant it is,*
when brethren live togeth- | er in unity!

² **It is like fine oil up- | on the head***
that runs down up- | on 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 or- | dained the blessing:*

life for- | evermore.

How good and pleas- | ant it is,*

when brethren live togeth- | er in unity!

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 20:19-31

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to **St. John.** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

DIALOGUE

sung by Pastor/congregation

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

SANCTUS *sung by cantor. Congregation joins at* C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. C Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the

body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy
church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed
yourself to your disciples.**

AGNUS DEI *Sung by cantor*

Sit *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

COMMUNION CANTICLE *Congregation sings refrain Cantor sings stanzas*

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

REFRAIN

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

REFRAIN

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Amen

REFRAIN

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

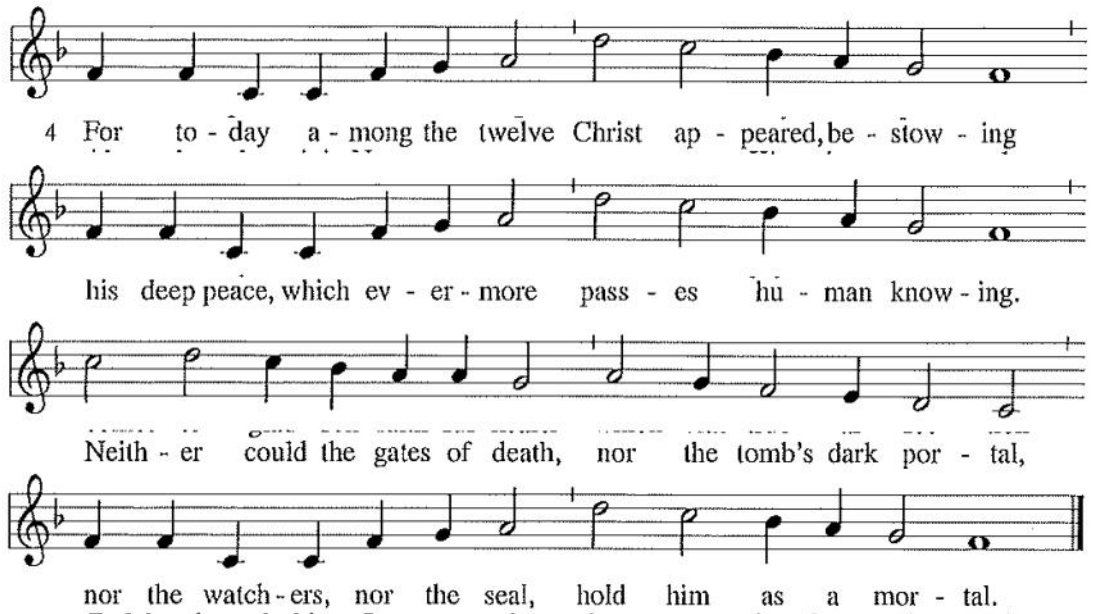
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain (LBW 132) stanza 4*



4 For to-day a-mong the twelve Christ ap-peared, be-slow-ing
his deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.
Neith-er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,
nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor-tal.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Christ is Risen! Alleluia*

Aaron David Miller

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

In our prayers we remember...

Courtney & Aaron Snell, Morgan Lanzaletti, Nancy Darr, Ray Manus, Sandy Dickensheets, Teresa Rohrbaugh, Isaiah King, Delores Sergent, Sandra Farcht, Wayne Wagner, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehling, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, and Porter Stacey

Food Pantry—April

Items needed: Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



Flowers This Week

***The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in loving memory of Linda Winey by Dave, Bret
and Mike Winey; and in honor of my mother,
Annmarie Polk, by Pat Scarborough***

Altar Flowers will once again be gracing our worship space now that Lent has passed. The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

This Week at St. Paul's April 11-18

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mn—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

Sunday, April 11

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM AA meeting—Community Rm

Monday, April 12

7:00 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting— ZOOM

Tuesday, April 13

9:30 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM CREATE - ZOOM Ages 2-1st grade
6:45 PM CREATE - ZOOM grades 2-6

Wednesday, April 14

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall
8:00 p.m. AA meeting—Community Room

Thursday, April 15

Newsletter Deadline
9:00 AM Pantry Delivery

Sunday, April 18

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Handbell Choir Rings

Wednesday Bible Study

The Book of Acts

Wednesday Bible Study is held at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. During the season of Easter the first reading each Sunday is from the book of Acts. We will spent a portion of our time together gaining greater insight into the book of Acts while still spending time reflecting on the Easter gospel readings. The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the narrative of the Gospel according to Luke. The book of Acts can be divided into two large portions. The first portion centers on Peter and deals with the early church in Jerusalem in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. The second portion centers on Paul and deals with his three missionary journeys and the expansion of the message of Christ crucified, raised and ascended. These readings direct our Sunday worship during this joyous season of Easter with a dual focus on the good news that God has raised Jesus from death to life and in our missionary effort to tell and share the good news with others here and around the world. Please bring your Bible and join us!

STAFF

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Bookkeeper
Secretary
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Economic issues have been front and center; a soon to be college graduate accepts a job, a national conversation regarding infrastructure, compiling documents for the church audit, a looming tax day even if it is extended, and the early church sharing wealth. With the college graduate accepting a job there is the conversation surrounding compensation and benefits and the percentage of that pay rate that is reduced by taxes for; federal, state, local, Social Security. With the national conversation on infrastructure there remains discernment specifically on what and how much and how to pay for improvements, upgrades, repairs, and new systems. With the congregation's annual audit financial statements reflecting the economic activity of the past year is brought clearly into focus. What are the financial costs associated with ministry in this place. With federal, state and local tax filing, well you are on your own. And with the early church sharing wealth, well that is an economic conversation that most faith communities want to dodge. It even seems a bit strange having a conversation about wealth on this second Sunday of Easter. It comes as a bit of a surprise. Like the resurrected Jesus coming through those locked doors! Except that the author of the book of Acts is the same one who penned the gospel of Luke, and Luke has more stories about money than just about anyone else that I can think who have contributed to the Holy Scriptures; The Parable of two debtors whose debts are canceled, The Good Samaritan, A Rich Fool who thinks he has everything needed, An unjust steward who was squandering property, The Rich Man and Lazarus, The parable of the ten pounds and who did what with what they were given. (Don't wrap it in a napkin.) Add to those the story of a rich young man who can't part with his money and a guy who is called "fool" because he boasts of his well filled barns. No, we should not be surprised that right out of the gate the early Christian community establishes itself through generosity. Luke had a really good hunch that where your treasure is there your heart will be too! That's just another lesson on economic issues.

Early in pastoral ministry I was given a lesson on economic issues. Weekly Bible study had concluded and the conversation drifted into whom among the group was heading out to purchase a lottery ticket. On that particular day the jackpot has simply a couple of million dollars, nothing like we witness today with Mega Millions and Power Ball. I can still hear Mrs. Wagner's voice "I wouldn't want the responsibility associated with millions." After receiving some strange looks from the group she continued "Or worse, the accountability before God." Mrs. Wagner believed that responsibility and accountability are both important aspects of Christian economics. Both come into clarity after believing in God.

The texts this morning center on believing. From the Gospel of John we hear "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*" And in the Acts we hear that believing equates to dependence on God. It is a different kind of economic understanding. The early Christian community recognized this and that is what led to the willingness of the faith community to share everything. It wasn't the beginning of some communist manifesto. It was about living life in the presence of the risen Lord. Fear was removed, "no one had need."

The first reading this morning provides a model of fearless life in Christ. The act of believing is an act of total dependence on God. That is probably the least attractive aspect imaginable for our modern world. Dependence on money, on self, on occupation, all outweigh dependence on God for the average 21st century person. Aristotle wrote "among friends everything is

common.” In those early days of Christianity, a window through which we peer in this morning’s reading, it was possible for such a practice to exist. It was the emblem of the perfect community. It was a community of friends. *“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.”* And that is why we hear *“there was not a needy person among them.”* The care they shared reflected life in the Resurrected Jesus.

This wasn’t just a sign of the perfect believing community in first century Palestine. In the Old Testament in the book of Deuteronomy we hear something similar taking place when Israel comes into the Promised Land. *“There will, however, be no one in need among you, because the Lord is sure to bless you in the land the Lord your God is giving you as a possession to occupy.”* The early Christians saw in their way of believing and life, a fulfillment of Israel’s promise from ages before.

In the fourth chapter of Acts we have a description of life post resurrection. It is foreign sounding to us, awkward for our ears to hear, perhaps even painful to contemplate such economics. The text may have an off putting side to it given our context and the close proximity with the economies of; new a new job, funding infrastructure, preparing for an audit, and completing tax forms. It is important to note that the whole group who believed was of “one heart and soul.” The summary of life then was four fold; sharing Goods, testimony of Christ’s suffering death and resurrection, meeting together, and God’s grace.

What was born out of this was the fruit of what we know as “wonders” and “signs.” The church grew in number and depth of relationship. As a community they were marked by unity, of “one heart and soul.” And no one among them had need. It was the wonder and sign of life lived in the Spirit of the Risen One. The breath of God was breathed on them; they were filled with the Spirit. It was how others would come to believe. Others would come to believe through them and the way in which they embraced life and the way they embraced one another. Which is the way that people still come to believe; through the way in which we embrace life and the way in which embrace one another.

We come together as a faith community believing God has acted. It would be hard to imagine how we would get along if we were to hold everything in common. But the Spirit of God pushes through closed doors, hardened hearts, and speaks peace as we wrestle with the economics of 21st century Christian life. Community needs are identified. Global partners are sought out. We wrestle with how and to what extent we make a difference as a community of the resurrected Lord. Through this Spirit filled community the grace of God abounds. I sense it; I hope that you do too. We participate in the meal that the Lord Jesus himself gave to his followers that night in an upper room, behind closed doors, not knowing fully what was going to unfold in the hours ahead. We come together sharing in the economics of belief in the Risen One. We don’t know what lies ahead except for the promise of God’s care; which was what our forerunners relied upon as they, like us, proclaimed the joy of the resurrection through their generosity, their words, and their action. Gathered as God’s people filled with the Spirit of the Risen Christ, God’s grace abounds, an economy unlike any other. Amen.

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.³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.³⁴ 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.³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133**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—²this 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—³we 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.⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;⁷ 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.⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} 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;² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ 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."

²⁶ 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."²⁷ 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."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ 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."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ 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.