

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

One: Our lives are sometimes fraught with challenges. Yet we have help.
In our uncertainty,

All: Christ goes before us.

One: In our doubts,

All: Christ remains with us.

One: In our fear,

All: Christ surrounds us.

One: In our hope,

All: Christ is within us.

One: In this time of worship

All: We strive to follow Jesus, who leads us into life.

Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vrs.1)

ST. DENO

Call to Confession

from 1 John 1:8–9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of Grace,

we have trouble finding words of hope and life,
and even more trouble turning words into actions.

We struggle to be one in heart and soul.

We choose sides, listen to conflicting voices,
and turn our backs on those who are different.

We hoard the grace poured out on us,
rather than sharing it with others.

Forgive us, God of love.

Forgive our preference to stay locked in our fears,
rather than opening to the light of your future.

Replace our brokenness with grace and healing,

so that we might be made whole in you.

We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

from 1 John 2:1–2

We have an advocate before God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to free the entire world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

from 1 John 1:1; John 20:27–28

God of all, of those who doubt and those who believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear, to see, and to touch your Word of life—Jesus Christ our Lord. Speak your truth into our hearts, that we might know and not fear. In the name of the risen Christ, **Amen.**

First Reading Acts 4:32–35

³²The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

Psalm Reading (HYMN 398)

Psalm 133 (*How Very Good and Pleasant*)

Look at how good and pleasing it is
when families live together as one!

²It is like expensive oil poured over the head,
running down onto the beard—

Aaron's beard!—

which extended over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew on Mount Hermon

streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,

because it is there that the LORD has commanded the blessing:
everlasting life.

Sharing Faith with Children

Anthem *O Blessed Spring*

Epistle Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2

We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. ²The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. ³What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

⁵This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: “God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.” ⁶If we claim, “We have fellowship with him,” and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. ⁷But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. ⁸If we claim, “We don’t have any sin,” we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we’ve done wrong. ¹⁰If we claim, “We have never sinned,” we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

² My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you don’t sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. ² He is God’s way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

Sermon *Fellowship and Forgiveness* Rev. Andrew Bowman

Responding to the Word

Hymn 192 *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining (vrs. 1)* SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Dedication for Offering

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;*

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Charge & Benediction

Blessing 372

O For a World (vrs. 5)

AZMON

Postlude