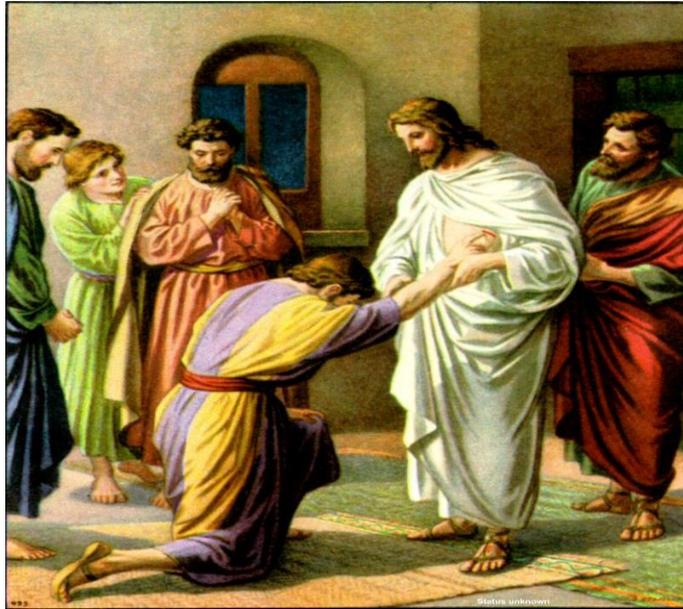


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 2021
ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD



The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

HYMN

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his piercèd side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enthral:
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
sin alone can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

COLLECT

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS

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

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

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

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.' 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 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.'

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

SERMON Elizabeth Gibbs

HYMN

Jesus is risen, alleluia!

Worship and praise him, alleluia!

Now our Redeemer bursts from the grave:

lost to the tomb, Christ rises to save.

Come let us worship him, endlessly sing;

Christ is alive and death loses its sting.

Sins are forgiven, alleluia!

Jesus is risen, alleluia!

Buried for three days, destined for death,
now he returns to breathe with our breath.

Blest are the ears alert to his voice,

blest are the hearts which for him rejoice.

Come let us worship him, endlessly sing; ...

'Don't be afraid!' the angel had said,
'Why seek the living, here with the dead?
Look, where he lay, his body is gone,
risen and vibrant, warm with the sun.'
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing; ...

'Go and tell others, Christ is alive.'
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.
What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives can never be killed.
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing; ...

Let heaven echo, let the earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything.
All those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!
Come let us worship him, endlessly sing; ...

PRAYERS

As we rejoice in the resurrection, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Father, God of all creation, we thank you for the world around us. As we enjoy the springtime, we pray for the places that are scarred by pollution, plunder and destruction. Bring healing to your wounded world, open the eyes of those who caused the wounds and bring hope to the families affected by them.

Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus who suffered at the hands of the religious leaders, we pray for your church, scarred by division, conflict, and misunderstanding, that through your wounds we may worship together in peace and harmony. Bring new life and resurrection joy to all who minister in your name.

Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, Lord of all, who lived among us and experienced the joys and sorrows of daily life, we pray for our community, giving thanks for all the care and kindness that has emerged over the past year. Through your example of perfect love, may we learn to see all people as you see them and share your love with those we meet day by day.

Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

Father God, your Son suffered pain and death, we pray for those who are suffering. To the lonely, the depressed and the homeless, bring hope of a new life. In a moment of silence, we name in our hearts, those we know who are in any kind of need (*silence*) Bring them healing, and peace in their hearts.

Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who, having shared with Christ the death of the body, now share with him the eternal life of his Resurrection. We remember all those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time; may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Risen Christ,
hear our prayer.

In your mercy hear us, accept our prayers and bring new life to all your people.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like hm, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Piano Voluntary

