

Sunday Worship at Home, 1st May 2022, Third Sunday of Easter



Introduction:

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds. Amen

A Prayer of Confession:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for The Third Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Bible Reading: John 21: 1

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Reflection on the reading:

Last week I reflected on how Jesus gave Thomas what he needed when he gave Thomas the opportunity to see and touch the scars of the crucifixion for himself. But Jesus is not some sort of Genie who will simply grant all of our wishes on demand. Jesus also challenges us and stretches us as part of our journey as disciples, and as we grow in faith. This well-known exchange between the Risen Christ and Simon-Peter on the beach after breakfast loses something important in the translation from the original Greek because we only have one word for “love” where the ancient Greeks had four, two of which are used here. *agape*, which is the costly sacrificial love that is contained in the command to love our enemies; and *philia*, which is the brotherly love we have for our friends. So when Jesus asks Peter, “Do you *agape* me more than all the others?” Peter replies with the much weaker “Lord you know I *philias* you”. Jesus asks again but this time he lowers the bar. He removes the comparison with the other disciples, it is a straight question, but he still uses the word *agape*, and again Peter responds using *philia*. Jesus lowers the bar again and this time he uses the word *philia*. It is not, as it first appears to us, that Jesus asked him three times that upset Peter, but the word for love that Jesus uses has changed. However, Peter is now able to truly answer “yes” to Jesus’ question and for Jesus that is enough. Although he does warn Peter that the sacrifice that goes with *agape* love will come later. Following Jesus often means moving outside of our comfort zone, so that we have to place our trust in him and not in our own skills and abilities. But he will only take us as far as we are ready to go, only when we are really ready, and never on our own, because the Holy Spirit goes with us.

The Creed

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Be still and pray:

God of peace and justice, God of love and healing; we pray for all those in our benefice who are ill at this time, and those who are caring for them whether at home or in hospital; we pray for those struggling with rising cost of fuel and food, and who are fearful of how they may pay for tomorrow; we pray for the people of Ukraine who fear what this day will bring; we pray that those in authority will seek peace and the laying down of weapons; we pray for all your precious children living at risk or in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

Finish with The Lord’s Prayer:

Conclusion

God of our salvation, you have restored us to life, you have brought us back again into your love by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Amen.**

Reverend Eddie