

### *Third Sunday of Easter*

Peter said to the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart. Peter said to them, “Repent, . . .and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” (*Acts 2:36-37a, 38-39*)

Dear Friends:

Our NT passage today is a continuation of last week’s Pentecost speech, and we find Peter telling the apostles and the crowd that God has acted and Jesus raised from the dead, that Jesus is “both Lord and Messiah.” Those present are “cut to the heart” with guilt, and Peter advises them to repent and baptized, and to receive forgiveness and the “gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Resurrection and its promise of new life imply a break with the old life. Old regulations, cultural mores, the customs and practices of society—the Resurrection made it clear in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. that all of these were now in flux. This doesn’t imply these changes were easy, total, or immediate; changes came about at huge cost and disruption. The implications of the Gospel have always been revolutionary and disruptive—but, then, God’s ways are not our ways.

We have been changing recently for reasons other than the Good News. As inconvenient as they are, they pale in comparison to the changes wrought by the Resurrection, and it’s obvious they are not ‘Good News.’ But it is the Good News that transcends the virus and its aftermath. Physical distancing is not social distancing; we stay in touch socially in many ways. Isolation and aloneness need imply loneliness; we are reaching out constantly and keeping in touch with family and friends. There IS another ‘Easter’ on the horizon.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Reed+ (904)472-4119 cell

## **The Collect**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **Collect for Relief from the Virus Contagion**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, graciously comfort your people amid the uncertainty facing us in the Coronavirus contagion: Mercifully attend to those who are sick, bless those who seek a vaccine and cure, bless our Church and civic leaders as they seek to guide us, and fill our hearts with confidence that, though at times we may be afraid, we may still put our trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Concluding Collect: For the Election of a Rector**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **First Reading—Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**Psalms 116:1-3, 10-17**

*Dilexi, quoniam*

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord's house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading—1 Peter 1:17-23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the

heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

### **Holy Gospel—Luke 24:13-35**

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.