A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

*Easter Sunday: April 12, 2020*

OPENING Ps 43.3

Send out Your light and Your truth that they may lead us,

**And bring us to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling.**

THE CALL

We come to prepare the way;

**The way for Christ –**

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

**to enter our world, to enter our hearts.**

We cry out together in the wilderness:

**The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

We come to be part of the light–

**the light that shines in the darkness.**

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

Be present, Spirit of God,

Within us, your dwelling place and home--

That this house may be one where

All darkness is penetrated by your light,

all troubles calmed by your peace,

all evil redeemed by your love,

all pain transformed in your suffering,

and all dying glorified in your risen life. **Amen**.

 From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

SONG

**Laudate, omnes gentes. Laudate Dominum!**

**Sing praises, all ye people. Sing praises to the Lord!**

PSALM Ps 36:5-10

Your love and Your faithfulness reach to the heavens

 **Your justice is like the great deep.**

You care for people and animals alike, O Lord.
   **How precious is your unfailing love, O God!**
All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.

We feast in Your abundance, **and drink from the river of Your delights.**

For with You is the well of life; **in Your light, we see light.**

Continue Your loving kindness to those who know You,

 **And Your favor to those who are true of heart**.

QUIET REFLECTION

PRAYER

We give You thanks, Almighty God,

 for all Your gifts and graces to us this day:

For the splendor of the whole creation and the beauty of this world; for the wonder of life, and the mystery of love;

for the blessings of family and friends,

 and the loving care that surrounds us on every side.

We are grateful for this day’s work,

For the things that demanded our best, and things that delighted us; and for disappointments and failures that lead us to depend on You truly.

**We thank You, O Lord.**

Stay with us, Lord, for evening is at hand

and the day is nearly past.

Be our light in the darkness we pray, and in Your great

mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this night.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

READING Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines, strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

QUIET REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United with Christian believers around the globe, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with these words: **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, Holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant bishops, priests, and deacons and all ministers faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time. Strengthen us as we move towards the cross. Hear us, holy God.**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into caregivers of your plants and animals. Hear us, bountiful God.  **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for you give us this great nation in which to live. Inspire all people in all lands to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy and work together in this time.  Hear us, sovereign God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization. Hear us, faithful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. We pray for strength and encouragement for members of our WELCM Family including Crystal, Jamison, Annika, and those we name before you now, on our lips or in our hearts... Hear us, gracious God.  **Your mercy is great**.

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts... [*silent prayer for those on our hearts and minds…*]

Hear us, loving God. **Your mercy is great**.

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith. At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory. Hear us, eternal God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Separated by distance but gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, and our friends in New Zealand have refreshed for us:

LORD’S PRAYER

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe.**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom**

**sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trial too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,**

**now and forever. Amen.**  From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

  In the presence of God, alongside Jesus Christ, with help from the Spirit

may we go into this Easter week to live out our prayers through our lives. **Amen.**

SONG

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING Luke 24:35-49

Then the followers from Emmaus [came to the eleven disciples in Jerusalem, and] told them how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. **36**And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. **37**But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

**38**“Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? **39**Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” **40**As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

**41**Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he ate it as they watched.

**44**Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. **46**And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. **47**It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ **48**You are witnesses of all these things.

**49**“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

QUIET REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone. We live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

 **Who has created and is creating,**

 **Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

 **To reconcile us and make us new,**

 **Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

 **To celebrate God’s presence,**

 **To love and serve neighbors,**

**To seek justice and resist evil.**

**To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

 **In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

SONG

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—trouble not your hearts.**

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—be not afraid.**

CLOSING BLESSING

Dance, celebrate, sing, and shout for joy!

Christ is risen, and He goes before us,

into this world of fear and pain.

He has called us to bring the Good News

of healing and hope, of redemption.

Go in peace, and feel the presence of the Risen Lord with you,

now and forever. **Amen.**

 --Nancy Townley

*Resources used for the language of this service include:*

Venite: A Book of Daily Prayer by Robert Benson

A New Zealand Prayer Book

New Living Translation of the Holy Bible

 Oremus III, Lutheran Student Movement

Worship Connection, Ministry Matters