

The Third Sunday of Easter – Sunday 23 April 2023

- Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 11-18; 1 Peter 1.13-25; Luke 24.13-35 or Matthew 28.8-15a

The Gospel of Matthew's account of the resurrection juxtaposes the disciples' response of fear and joy (when Jesus reassures them in their fear) with that of the chief priests' scheming and manipulation. Those who trust in the resurrection have a hope that transcends worldly power machinations; there is nothing to defend or protect, only a life to be joyfully lived. We need not be troubled by those who seek to control, for they have no authentic power.

Notice what fears still seek to control you; gently place them in the care of Christ, who invites us beyond our fear, to lasting joy.

- Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia as it seeks to address displacement of the communities in the Solomon Islands from the impacts of climate change.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Melanesian Brotherhood, the Melanesian Sisterhood, the Society of St Francis and the Sisters of the Church who minister throughout the Pacific Islands.

Text: Richard Fay St John's Cathedral, Brisbane © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Reflection

Readings - Sunday 23 April 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter

Sentence

Repent, and be baptised 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. *Acts 2.38-39*

Collect

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2.14a, 2.36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' ³⁷ 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?' ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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.' ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.
For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 116.1-4, 116.11-18

- ¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
- ² Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.
- ³ The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'
- ¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?



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- ¹² I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- ¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
- ¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- ¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1.13-25

¹³ Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵ Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’ That word is the good news that was announced to you. For the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel: Luke 24.13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were

talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ 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?’ ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.’ ²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² 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?’ ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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