**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**land acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For thousands of years, the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They aided the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**ANNouncements**

Welcome to worship on this 2nd Sunday of Easter. What wonderful weather we had this week. It is no doubt a sign of things to come, now we might see a snowflake or two this week, but warmer weather will return.

Your Council met this week and there are lots of events happening in the life of Zion. Please see you bulletin for information about the bbq on May 7 and our cleaning bee/Arbour day on May 13.

**GATHERING SONG*Now the Green Blade Rises* (ELW 379)**

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 213)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

A reading from Acts.

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God’s plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

14aPeter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 22“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—23this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25For David says concerning him,
 ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; 26therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. 27For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. 28You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’
 29“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ 32This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 16- read responsively by whole verse**

 1Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
 2**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,** **upon those who are noble among the people.**
 3But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.
 4**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,** **never take their names upon my lips.**
 5O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.
 6**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;** **indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
 7I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.
 8**I have set the Lord always before me;** **because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
 9My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.
 10**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**
 11You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for-evermore.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ’s resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?** **Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

19When 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.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So 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.”
 26A 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.” 27Then 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.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*We Walk by Faith* (ELW 635)**

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:

4 For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.
5 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities’ leaders. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief, especially Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Marlene, Felix, Hilde, Randy, Brian, Elaine, Gary, Debbie G, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love. Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING- *Create in me*  (ELW 186)**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe,

proclaiming freedom from captivity, becoming the song of your people.

We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your Word is made flesh among us: with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.

With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.

Your Word names our death and our life: a seed that falls into the earth and dies,

rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth, a vine in which we abide. Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. We bless you, O God, for your Word.

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to understand the scriptures. Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life. Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action.

With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, we join in the hymn of all creation, as we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** **hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,** **thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,** **as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;** **and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,** **and the power, and the glory,** **forever and ever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Thine Is the Glory* (ELW 376)**

1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain
Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

2 Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! Refrain

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

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