

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 1 May 2022

### Notices

- Banns of Marriage
- Archdeacon's Visitation
  - Prayer Calendar
- Eve's American Adventure

### Introduction & Welcome

#### A Prayer of Approach

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.**

### Song: Be still for the presence of the Lord

#### Receiving God's Forgiveness

Gracious God,  
we come to you aware of our failings and conscious that we have tried to live in our own  
strength.

We have resisted the challenge of change and not trusted your truth.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have rooted ourselves in our wills and not in your word.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We have looked for quick fixes and not kingdom-shaped growth.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, we thank you that  
when our faith becomes straggly,  
you prune it with your wisdom;  
when it becomes malnourished,

you nurture it with your grace;  
when it becomes brittle,  
you strengthen it with your truth;  
when it becomes barren,  
you restore it with your life-giving energy, forgiveness and love.

May the God of love and power  
Forgive us and free us from our sins,  
Heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,  
And raise us to new life  
in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Psalm 30 (NIV)

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, Lord,  
for you lifted me out of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- <sup>2</sup> Lord my God, I called to you for help,  
and you healed me.
- <sup>3</sup> You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;  
you spared me from going down to the pit.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;  
praise his holy name.
- <sup>5</sup> For his anger lasts only a moment,  
but his favour lasts a lifetime;  
weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> When I felt secure, I said,  
“I will never be shaken.”
- <sup>7</sup> Lord, when you favoured me,  
you made my royal mountain stand firm;  
but when you hid your face,  
I was dismayed.
- <sup>8</sup> To you, Lord, I called;  
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
- <sup>9</sup> “What is gained if I am silenced,  
if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup> Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;  
Lord, be my help.”

<sup>11</sup> You turned my wailing into dancing;  
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup> that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.  
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

### Short Reflection

- Not complacency
- Not over-confidence
- But active trust in God
- See it and name it

### Sung Creed: This I Believe

#### Acts 9:1-20 (NIV)

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

<sup>5</sup> “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. <sup>6</sup> “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

<sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision,  
“Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

<sup>13</sup> “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to

the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

### Short Reflection

God’s acts are usually...

- Surprising
- Behind the scenes
- Purposeful
- Limitless

### Song: Good Good Father

#### John 21:1-19 (NIV)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:

<sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”  
“No,” they answered.

<sup>6</sup> He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

<sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

### Short Reflection

- God's miraculous provision
- God's calling – Peter's and ours
  - Dying to live

Song: All I once held dear

### Sharing Journeys:

#### Our Prayers

led by Jill

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Revelation 5:11-14 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### Short Reflection

The Lamb is still on the throne!

### Song: In Christ Alone

### Closing Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon us  
and be gracious to us, the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**