

GRACE

CHURCH ON-THE-HILL

ORDER OF SERVICE EASTER III

PRELUDE *Four Versets on 'O Sons and Daughters'* ALEXANDRE BOELY
ORGANIST: Thomas Fitches ODT; DDiv. (honoris causa)

EASTERTIDE GREETING

HYMN 231 *That Eastertide with joy was bright;* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
alleluia, alleluia!
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

From every weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield:
alleluia, alleluia!
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus, the king of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!
that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GENERAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Priest: Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we celebrate this Paschal festival.

Let us in penitence and faith confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

THE CONFESSION

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence: Lord, have mercy.
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be recognized as your followers: Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe: Lord, have mercy.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of power and love forgive you and free you from all your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Spirit, and raise you to newness of life in Christ. Amen.”

Canticle: 365 *Glory to God*

WOODLANDS

Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav’nly joy and earthly peace we sing.
We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav’nly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son,
You bore for us the weight of this world’s sin.
O Lamb of God, your glorious vict’ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, you only are the Lord,
At God’s right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshipped and adored:
With all the heav’nly host we glorify.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

LESSON: *Acts 2:14, 36-41*

READ BY MICHAEL ROYCE

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. Therefore 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.

PSALM 116. 1-4,12-19

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"
What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

EPISTLE: *1 Peter 1.17-23*

READ BY SHEILA ROYCE

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.

SUNG 'ALLELUIA AND VERSE'

GOSPEL *Luke 24.13-35*

READ BY BETTY CALVIN

Now on that same day two of them 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.

HOMILY

THE REV. CANON PETER WALKER

ANTHEM

The Rose of Sharon

THE CHOIR OF GRACE CHURCH ON-THE-HILL AT OXFORD

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Hear, O Israel,
The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
With all your heart,
With all your soul,
With all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LED BY MARIA LING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCHWARDEN CHRISTOPHER BUNTING

Hymn 237 *Now the green blade rises from the buried grain*

NOEL NOUVELET

Now the green blade riseth, 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 that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

CLOSING PRAYERS

THE BLESSING

HYMN 224 *Awake, arise, lift up your voice,*

RICHMOND

Awake, arise, lift up your voice,
let Easter music swell;
rejoice in Christ, again rejoice,
and on his praises dwell.

Oh, with what gladness and surprise
the saints their Saviour greet;
nor will they trust their ears and eyes
but by his hands and feet:

those hands of liberal love indeed
in infinite degree,
those feet still free to move and bleed
for millions and for me.

His enemies had sealed the stone
as Pilate gave them leave,
lest dead and friendless and alone
he should their skill deceive.

O Dead arise! O Friendless stand
by seraphim adored!
O Solitude again command
your host from heaven restored!

POSTLUDE *Finale (Symphony IV)*

CHARLES MARIE WIDOR
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