



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

Thought for the Day before Worship

*There is no suffering, no torture anywhere in the world
which does not affect our everyday lives.*

- Albert Camus

Welcome

Prelude

“My Jesus I Love Thee”

(Don Hustad)

Introit

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

M: **You spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies.**

L: You anoint my head with oil, my cup is running over.

M: **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.**

L: And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Let us Worship our God!

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

All praise be unto you, O God, Great Shepherd of the sheep. You gather your people as lambs to your bosom; you enfold them with your all-embracing love. You refresh us like a stream flowing freely with living waters; you nourish us like a host whose table is heavy laden. We gather to hear your refreshing word of promise and direction, to honor your name as our guardian and hope.

Holy God, we confess that we choose safety over salvation and comfort over courage. We long for protection from the world rather than ministry to the world. Our anxieties hold us back in ways we know and in ways we can't even identify.

Forgive us, we pray.

Guide us as a church, that we may renounce fear and choose faith. For the sake of the world, which you love, we ask these things. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon (done responsively)**

P: Children of God, let us love not just in word or speech, but in deed and truth.

M: **All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.**

P: By this we shall know that we are of the truth, for God knows everything.

M: **All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.**

P: Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

M: **All who keep God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.**

P: This is what God commands:
Believe in the name of Christ Jesus and love one another.

M: **And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit which God has given us.**

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 23 (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Anthem *“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” (Fettke/Johnson)*

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;

The moon and stars suspended in space.

Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name

Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,

And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.

Alleluia!

Scripture Lesson

From the Letters to the Church: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone

who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Pastoral Prayer

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

We partake daily of God's abundance. Sometimes we appear to be thieves and robbers, diverting to our own use what God entrusts to us for the benefit of all. We are stewards of riches we do not own. We are managers of talents we did not create. We are gifted with time to invest for our Creator. Let us offer our best, our all, in renewed dedication.

Offertory

“My Tribute”

(Crouch/arr. Tom Fettke)

*How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude;
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.*

*To God be the glory for the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me, with His power He has raised me,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.*

*Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee;
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.*

Scripture Lesson From the History of the New Testament: Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,^[a] and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners^[b] stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^[c] whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus^[d] is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’^[e]

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

B \flat Eb B \flat B \flat F7 B \flat F Eb B \flat F7 B \flat

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;

E \flat B \flat F7 F \sharp dim7 Gm E \flat B \flat F7 B \flat

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:

Gm Gm Gm D7 Gm D B \flat E \flat B \flat F C C7 F7

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

B \flat E \flat B \flat F7 F \sharp dim7 Gm E \flat B \flat F7 B \flat

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.