

*Second Sunday in Easter*



*“Peace be with you...do not doubt but believe.”  
John 20:19-31*

*Church Of Our Saviour*

*“Our Mission: to live out the gospel by transforming lives and neighborhoods in partnership, with innovation, and with compassion.”*

*April 11, 2021  
10:30 a.m.*

*The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett, Rector  
Peter Wright, Choir Director  
Michael McGroarty, Musician*

## **Church of Our Saviour Episcopal**

471 Crosby Street  
Akron, Ohio, 44302  
330-535-9174

We invite you to experience God's love and ours. We are a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are bound together by our common liturgy, not a rigid set of doctrines. So how we sing and pray and relate to one another is very important to us. Wherever you are on your journey, we have a place for you and invite you to make your place with us. Come share our joys and sorrows as we share in yours. God is alive for everyone here regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or life history. Join singles, couples, partners and families of every description that make up our community of faith. Rejoice with us in our diversity.

### Parish Prayer

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of Our Saviour be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### Welcome, Guests

If you are joining us online for the first time this morning, we hope you will consider making Church of Our Saviour your church home during this period of suspended in-person worship.



## Liturgy of the Word, Rite II Second Sunday in Easter

♪ Prelude:

Ringing of the “Welcome” Bell

♪ Opening Hymn

Hymnal #205 Good Christians, all rejoice and sing

*Gelobt sei Gott*

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
 \*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:  
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Liturgy of the Word

### Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

### Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*Gloria in excelsis*

S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,  
you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most  
High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the  
glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

### The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

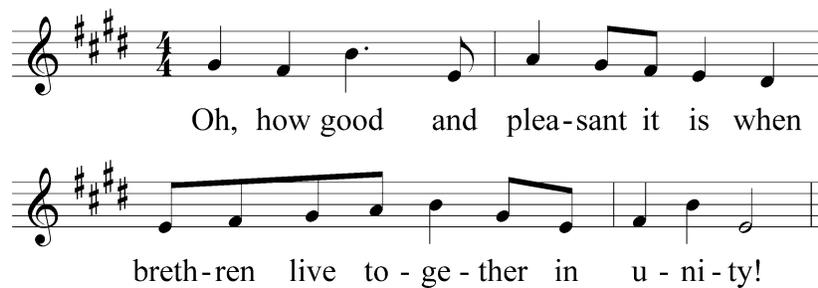
### First Reading Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 133



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### *Ecce, quam bonum!*

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.                      *Refrain*

4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \*              *Refrain*  
life for evermore.

### **Second Reading**                      1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, 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-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn**

**Hymnal #209**

**We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight**

*St. Botolph*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no  
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound, to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.  
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near, and seek where you are found:  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

**Holy Gospel** – The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

John 20:19-31

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

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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."

A 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." Then 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

People’s Response before the Gospel Proclamation: **Glory to You, Lord Christ**

People’s Response following the Gospel Proclamation: **Praise to You, Lord Christ**

**Alleluia Verse— Alleluia Verse—WLP #784 (Refrain, sung twice)**

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es! All our  
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the Alleluia Verse. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain structure.

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hearts are filled with glad - ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your  
 bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!  
 ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.

Fine

**The Sermon**

Rev. Debra Q Bennett

*The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God” (BCP p. 851).*

We say these words as a gathered community to affirm our belief in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation, as the source of life and holiness. God has blessed humanity with relationships and community which are part of God’s own essence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We do not say these words as some sort of litmus test but as an invitation to wrestle with the mystery and complexity of God with generations of Christians who have gone before us and with generations who will come after us.

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.  
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

### **Prayers of the People**

Intercessor: Central to every gathering of Christians for worship is intercessory prayer. Our prayer is always for the church and the world.

Intercessor: We pray for church leaders everywhere, that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments. We pray for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our bishops Mark, William, and Arthur and our priest Debra in their proclamation of the Gospel. Hear us, O God.

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: We raise voices of thanksgiving for all of your creation. May we always be mindful of the gifts of the earth and be grateful stewards. Hear us, O God.

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: Inspire the leaders of the nation and all in authority with the breath of your peace, that they may share their possessions with the poor and bring justice and comfort to all who live in fear or need. We pray for all those serving in the military, for President Biden, his advisors and members of all branches of the U.S. government and our state and local government. Hear us, O God.

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: Be present to any who huddle fearfully behind closed doors and let the healing touch of the wounded Jesus come to comfort all who suffer (especially Christopher, David, Pam, Susan, Christine, Joe, Chris, Derwood, Ruth, Judy, Glynn, Patricia, Patty, Tom, Danny, Emily, Rob, Jeff, Mikey, Anthony, Norma, Clarence, Dan, Steve, Leslie, Nancy R., Marilyn M., Bill, Marsha, Roger, William, Mitchell., Bob, Kym, Kelly, Stephanie, Joslyn, Mia, Virginia, Michelle, Chris D., Randy and Helen, Raymond, Katie,

Robin, Fred, Susan S., Judy, Richard and Joyce Metz, Shirley W., Sandy, Ramon, Jessica, Tim, Dianne, Kylie, Nakiim, The Merton Family, Nancy, Hannah, Mary, Julie, Amy, David, Karly, Christina, Jeff, Richard D., Tammy, David S., Michael D., Scott, Karen, Aunt Abbie, Eve & Katie, Elvera, Rita, Donna C, Seti, Jim, Joseph, Deidre, Dot, Beth, Jim E., Larry, Chester, Janice, Ron, Eric, Karla, Tana, Carol, Bree, Roxy, Phil, Fred; Natalie, Kerry, Pam and Wendy, Cynthia, Laura, Nancy G., David, Jill, Rick, Jim, Harold & Claudette, Kathi & Cindy, the Jones Family, Glenworth, and the families and victims of the recent mass shootings), Hear us O God

***People: For your mercy is great.***

Intercessor: Bring comfort and grace to all those afflicted by the COVID-19 contagion, especially parents of children home from school, people dependent on food pantries, the homeless, the unemployed, students and teachers, health care workers and first responders, and day care workers. Hear us, O God.

***People: For your mercy is great.***

Intercessor: We pray for our seminarians Megan and Jon and all seminarians as they continue their discernment toward ordination. Hear us, O God.

***People: For your mercy is great.***

Intercessor: We pray for this community of faith. Let this community of Akron and the people of our neighborhood walk in your light and do the work of reconciliation, especially in the area of racial equality and justice, revealing the eternal life that was with the Father and has been revealed to us. Hear us, O God.

***People: For your mercy is great.***

Intercessor: (You may add other intercessions either silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

***People: For your mercy is great.***

Intercessor: Resurrecting God, we remember those who now worship at your throne, and with expectant hearts we await the day when all will behold you in glory. We pray for all the faithful departed; let light perpetual shine upon them. Hear us, O God.

***People: For your mercy is great.***

***Presider:*** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***People: Amen***

**The Peace**      “The Peace of Christ be always with you”

**Response:** “And also with you”

### **Commemorative Prayers**

*The priest offers prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant events*

### **Announcements**

### **Lord’s Prayer**

*People and Presider*

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.

### ***Seasonal Blessing of Easter***

*The Celebrant blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

♪ Closing Hymn

LEVAS II # 42 He lives

Alfred H. Ackley



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; \_\_\_  
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, \_\_\_  
3. Re - joice, re - joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing. \_\_\_



1. I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say; \_\_\_  
2. And though my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair; \_\_\_  
3. E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! \_\_\_



1. I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, \_\_\_  
2. I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast, \_\_\_  
3. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find, \_\_\_



1. And just the time I need Him \_\_\_ He's al - ways near. \_\_\_  
2. The day of His ap - pear - ing \_\_\_ will come at last. \_\_\_  
3. None oth - er is so lov - ing, \_\_\_ so good and kind. \_\_\_



(Continues on next page)

He lives, He lives, Christ Je - sus lives - to - day!

He lives, He lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!

He lives, He lives,

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart.

**Dismissal**

Response: **Thanks be to God**

**Postlude**

**Today's Readers:** John M. & Kay S.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK...** April 9—Anne Schwan, April 14—Helen Fleming, April 14—Susan Kirksey