



**Order of Service**

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

**Easter 3**

**Introit TiS 772** Worship, honour, glory, blessing

**Call to worship**

In the streets, in the busyness of daily living, we encounter Christ,  
**and our lives are changed.**

At home, with family and friends, or on our own, we encounter Christ,  
**and our lives are changed.**

In unexpected places, and in times of prayer, we encounter Christ,  
**and our lives are changed.**

Bring your changed lives. Come into this place, and let us worship God.

**Opening prayer**

As you have met us in many places, O God,  
meet us again here and now.  
In this time of worship, in one another, in the music, in the prayers,  
in the scripture, and times of sharing, and all we do,  
may we encounter Christ,  
and in so doing, find our lives transformed and renewed. **Amen.**

**Acknowledgement of First Peoples**

*"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay respect to their elder's past, present and emerging."*

**Welcome**

**Hymn TiS 134** Praise, my soul, the king of heaven

**Psalm 30**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.**

<sup>3</sup> O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name.**

<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment;  
his favour is for a lifetime.

**Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.**

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
"I shall never be moved."

<sup>7</sup> **By your favour, O LORD,  
you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face; I was dismayed.**



<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:

<sup>9</sup>**“What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?**

<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!”

<sup>11</sup>**You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,**

<sup>12</sup>**so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

### **Introduction to Prayer of confession**

When Peter said that he would lay down his life for Jesus, he was probably sure that he could carry his promise out. When the time of his testing arrived, however, he failed to live up to his promise. There are times in our lives when we make promises also, believing that we can and will keep them. We acknowledge that we fail also.

### **Prayer of confession**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, we want to serve you faithfully and to follow you wholeheartedly and sometimes we make promises and fail to keep them.

We pray for your forgiveness...

for the words left unspoken in your name...

for people not visited...

for prejudices still not broken down...

for reconciliation not pursued ....

for our neglect of those who suffer from hunger and poverty...

for leaving sick and lonely people with needs unmet...

As we acknowledge and wrestle with failure, we remember that Simon Peter failed also.

And yet - he was lovingly commissioned by Jesus to go forward - failures and all - to feed and nourish people with the gospel. Lord Jesus Christ, our failures are laid out before you in the belief that you know and understand and forgive our weaknesses. Help us to remain faithful in the midst of the priorities thrust upon us by work and school, health and mobility, family and friends. This we pray in your name. Amen

### **Words of Assurance**

God has turned our mourning in dancing, taken off our garments of sadness and clothed us with joy.

**And so we will praise God forever! Amen.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Dedication of offering**

#### **An Early Word “Peter and the Big Breakfast”**



**BIBLE READING: John 21:1-19**

**Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**Jesus and Peter**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

**REFLECTION**

"After these things," John says. After Jesus had been crucified and buried, after he had risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples -- after all these things, "Jesus showed himself again." I wonder why? What further can Jesus do after revealing the stupendous truth that he is risen from the dead.

At the beginning of chapter 21 the disciples have left Jerusalem and are gathered by the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter is there, along with Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and "two others of his disciples." What they are doing there we can only guess. They seem to be waiting for something. Or someone. You can almost hear the clock ticking. Finally Peter says to his peers, "I'm going fishing." And with a sigh of relief they offer to go with him.

I don't know that John means it this way, but somehow Peter's words are a bit depressing. All those high hopes that had been his when he was with Jesus have come crashing down, and now, with no reason to go forward, he goes back to that thing he knows best: fishing. There is nothing wrong with fishing. It is honest work. But Peter has been up on the high slopes with Jesus and is now back down at sea level.

That would be bad enough, but to make matters worse, Peter cannot succeed at the thing to which he has resigned himself. "That night they caught nothing," John adds flatly. And can't you see Peter? He flings his net out over the black waters again and again, hauling them in dripping wet and as empty as his dreams.

"What's the use?" he mutters under his breath. "What's the point? Even the one thing I thought I could do I can't do anymore.

But then day breaks and a stranger asks the question all fisherman have heard from the shore: "Caught anything, boys?" They shake their heads. Nothing. "Cast the net on the right side of the boat," he suggests, and to humour the stranger they do. But this time everything changes. This time they are unable to haul it in because of the live, wiggling weight of the fish they have caught. Like the parallel story in Luke 5, the miraculous catch serves as an epiphany, shining a light on the stranger, showing him for who he really is. The disciple whom Jesus loves turns to Peter and says with a gasp, "It is the Lord!"

Impulsive as ever, Peter throws on his clothes and jumps into the water, swimming toward shore while the others drag the full net along behind the boat. At first his strokes are long and strong, then he slows as he gets closer to shore, closer to Jesus. What will he say when the two of them stand face to face? How will he explain not only his denial of Jesus, but now the denial of his calling as a disciple? Nonetheless he comes ashore, and after an awkward breakfast at which Jesus acts as host -- giving bread and fish to a hungry, though much smaller, multitude by the sea -- Jesus nods to Peter and they start off down the beach.

"Simon," says Jesus, "do you love me?" And Peter, pained by the question, answers, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." And then Jesus asks it again. And then again. Each time Peter answers with all the sincerity he can muster, his anguish evident in his voice. And each time Jesus follows his response with a simple command: "Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep."

Most scholars believe that Peter's threefold profession of his love for Jesus parallels his threefold denial, that Jesus is giving Peter the chance to fill the hole he has dug for himself with three huge shovelfuls of love. They are probably right. There is a symmetry here. But there is more. Jesus is not only trying to bring Peter back to where he was before but to move him beyond that. Jesus looks Peter in the eye and speaks the words that won him in the first place: "Follow me. Suddenly it is clear. Jesus has shown himself again for Peter's benefit. In the same way he returned for Thomas, to move him from doubt to faith, he now returns for Peter, to move him from faith to action.

Perhaps in these days after the resurrection we need that as much as Peter did. We, too, have come down from the high slopes of Easter and now find ourselves stuck in the same sea-level routine. We have seen the risen Lord and believed, but what difference has it made? Perhaps, having heard the invitation to follow so long ago, we need to hear it again, and then to act. Amen

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Hymn TiS 526** Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit;

Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love:

We praise you for Jesus Christ,

who reminds us that even in fear-filled days,



cloaked with the powers of death,  
your eternal love arises, and never leaves us.  
For we rejoice with all your people  
and with the angels,  
because life is stronger than death!  
As we proclaim the glory of your name:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said,  
and what he did; for our benefit.  
On the night before Jesus died,  
He took a loaf of bread,  
Gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this, in remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying,  
“This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:  
**We remember Christ’s life of love, and friendship, and teaching,  
We remember Christ’s dying, and rising to life again.**  
Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.

These simple elements are shared in community,  
so that we may taste and see your goodness  
and become one body in Christ.  
For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
that all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forevermore. Amen.

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.***



## **The Breaking of the Bread**

### **Lamb of God**

Jesus, lamb of God

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**grant us peace.**

### **The Communion**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**HYMN: TiS 530 Now let us from this table rise**

### **Blessing**

Go with the joy of God within you,

the love of Jesus Christ upholding you,

and the strength of the Holy Spirit sustaining you.

**Amen.**

**HYMN TiS 778 Shalom to you now**

