

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25th 2021



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Opening

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Sentence

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. John 10.14

Collect

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

ACTS 4:5-12;

PSALM 23;

1 JOHN 3:16-24;

JOHN 10:11-18

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-04-25&submit=show+new+date>

Reflection for 4th Sunday of Easter from AD Rick

Reflection: Acts 4:5-12 “The believers Share their possessions”

I trust that you have all heard many sermons on Jesus the Good Shepherd, which is the Gospel for this Sunday. Perhaps Fr. Justin will want to talk about it. It is very comforting and wonderful that we are cared for by God, and that Jesus laid down his life to bring us life.

I suspect you have not often heard a sermon on the Acts reading for this Sunday. In our world of individualism and capitalism, the story of how the first disciples shared everything collectively runs against the grain. Please read the story and the next chapter which deals with two disciples who try and cheat the church and end up dying for their sin of fraud. I find it amazing that these stories actually remain in our cycle of Sunday readings. Who knew that the early church functioned like a socialist system, “from each according to their ability to each according to their need.” I wonder why the disciples chose to organize this way. No one knows for sure but I would like to offer a couple of theories that might help us find a spiritual lesson in this time of Covid.

I suspect that they just fell into this way of doing things because it was the way they did things when they were following Jesus. We can see from the Gospel stories that the whole of Jesus ministry was supported by the believers sharing resources. Jesus’ ministry so valued that people freely supported him and his disciples. He was even criticized for “eating with tax collectors and sinners.” Jesus didn’t see a problem with this, if someone had more than enough, it was good that they were showing hospitality, and in return Jesus taught with his words and presence, all things come from God and return to God.

Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of God is the second reason I think the disciples found it natural to share their possessions so that no one was in need. Jesus talked a lot about God’s unconditional love and care for everyone, even the “unjust” or foolish. Jesus follows in the tradition of the Hebrew laws that talk about Justice, sabbath, care for the alien in the land, (immigrant or refugee). He seems to believe that God doesn’t want anyone to be left behind in the areas of safety, health and food security.

The Christian Church for centuries has largely ignored the very real and radical biblical teachings about equity, and justice for all but especially for these most vulnerable, when it comes to economic and social policy Jesus was a socialist. Today this passage from Acts seems totally counter cultural, and it is. Jesus’ view of the world was very different from the conservative religious right or the individualistic, capitalistic political ideologies of our time. Hence this passage is largely ignored.

If the pandemic is teaching us anything it is that our capitalistic society is broken. This week a leading health care doctor described how Covid is spreading most quickly and dangerously within groups of people who don’t have the option to work from home. They are people who still have to go to work, often at low paying jobs, and who have not had the benefit of vaccination. Whole families are becoming infected because the political agenda is to “balance” the economic and health care impacts of Covid. The doctor warned that this strategy wasn’t really going to work and that soon people will be triaged for ICU beds and people who could have lived will die. Her recommendation was to stop all non essential commerce, and vaccinate those who need to provide food and health care until this pandemic is brought under control. Why are billionaires growing even richer in this pandemic and yet the poorest in our society are being asked to risk their lives and their families lives on the altar of greed?

I think I know how Jesus and the early church would have handled this crisis: the priority would not be economic but social. God loves people not money and as we know, “the **love** of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” 1 Tim 6:10

The last reason that the disciples shared everything is stated in the first verse of our reading, “Now the whole group of those who believed were of **one heart and soul.**” They shared because they loved, they did as Jesus commanded, “love one another as I have loved you.”

How can we too love others, in our time and place in history, with the love of Jesus?

Archdeacon Rick rickplus@gmail.com



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Prayers of the People from Mary Field - jamar@kwic.com

Heavenly Father we are grateful for this day. We pray to You with confidence. **Jeremiah 29:12-13**; "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

We offer the following prayers in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ

Lord hear our prayer for all churches around the world, in Canada and the Parish of Long Point Bay. May we hear Your voice and answer Your call to service and know Your blessings. Jesus was known as the Good Shepherd; he led the ministry of Your word by his actions and words; in Jesus' name we offer prayers for all who have chosen the ministry of Your word as a vocation; guide them and protect them.

We Pray for Elizabeth our Queen and wish her continued good health in this her 95th year. Lord support and comfort her as she grieves the passing of her beloved husband Philip.

We pray for peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and compromise may grow among nations and peoples. Praying especially for those who govern and exercise authority may they rule and serve seeking your guidance, justice and peace in every law and action.

We pray for our country, show us how to contribute to its growth and well-being. We pray for good weather and a planting season that will contribute to an abundant harvest for all.

Lord we pray for the persecuted, the poor, the sick and all who suffer. Lord hear our voices as we pray for refugees, prisoners and anyone else in danger. We pray for Your loving attendance to their needs.

We pray for anyone we have injured or offended may we acknowledge our blunders and pray for forgiveness.

Lord hear our prayers for those in positions of power and influence during this Covid 19 pandemic. They have an opportunity to benefit all humanity through their research, policies, procedures, effective distribution and administering of vaccines. We pray that you be with them to strengthen and guide their resolve in this most urgent need. We pray for our Canadian Government's as they struggle with organization, supply & delivery asking for Your guidance & support for them.

Lord we pray for those frontline workers who face danger of contacting Covid 19 every day; we honour their dedication, bravery and confidently pray that You be with them to protect and guide them each day. We pray for all who have come forward to produce, deliver, and serve us in all manner of services, keep them safe Lord.

We would pray over and over again that You and all the powers of Your Mighty Trinity help us reach the hearts of the disillusioned of the world who feel the need to inflict suffering. Praying You take into your arms the innocent who have been injured or lost their lives. We pray for your guidance in ways to care for those suffering and injured as a result of these terrible actions.

Lord we pray for those suffering job losses and extreme stress as a result of Covid 19 and the uncertainty as a result of unknown hurdles that may be ahead; these are real issues with real consequences and we ask you to wrap your arms around each and all and may they feel Your love and strength.

Lord help us to do our part by being good citizens to aid in our pandemic recovery. Wear your masks, adhere to physical distancing, wash your hands, do not be part of a large crowd

We earnestly pray that you Lord be with those who are mourning the loss of dear ones, through illness, catastrophic events.

Hear us O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands, grant eternal joy and peace to our beloved and holy dead.

We pray for: - Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Martinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday April 25, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Jason Postma** and the people of **St. James', Paris**.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. Especially remembering: June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, David, John, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Ian M., Sheila H., Sylvia B., and families and anyone known to you. Amen.



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It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@hotmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.

Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish video

https://youtu.be/l_o-yVzd38U

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19 in our area, in person Church services remain suspended. We will continue with our online services.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays in May – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in the birthday section, please send me details.

Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, April 25, 2021

#519-The Lord's My Shepherd

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

#378-Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as they matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail,, Redeemer, hail! For thou has died for me;
They praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@hotmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lppparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page