

# **Saint John the Evangelist, Port Hope**

The Second Sunday of Easter - April 24, 2022



10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist

## **Territorial Acknowledgment**

The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. We honour those teachings and commit ourselves to living peaceably together in a spirit of respect and reconciliation.

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**Welcome to St. John's Church.** We are a Christian community dedicated to knowing God's love in our lives through worship, learning, and caring for others.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our ministry is being conducted according to the guidelines for safe worship published by the Diocese of Toronto. We are committed to ensuring the safest possible environment for gathering. Masks are required at all times while inside the church. Please respect physical distancing.

Sidespersons are present to guide you throughout the service and will direct you when it is time to receive Holy Communion.

Whatever your age, education, background, income, church experience, marital status, ability or disability, you are welcome here. Whether you are a lifelong Anglican, just visiting for the day, or just checking out what church is about, you are welcome here. We are blessed by each other. All are welcome here.

If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, the Anglican Church, our parish and its ministries, or if you would like to speak to a priest for any other reason, please get in touch using the contact information below:

Office phone: 905-885-2171

Office email: [stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca](mailto:stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca)

Website: [stjohnschurchph.ca](http://stjohnschurchph.ca)

Address: 33 Pine St. North, Port Hope, ON L1A 3G5

Our parish's ministry is sustained by the offerings of our members, visitors, and friends. Please contribute however much you can. For information on Offering Envelopes or Pre-Authorized Giving please contact the Parish Office.

## **The Second Sunday of Easter - April 24, 2022**

The Holy Eucharist

Presiding Celebrant: The Rev'd Jesse Parker

Homilist: Shane Watson

Lay Reader: Lyn Bradshaw

Prelude: Chorale preludes on '*Christ lag in Todesbanden*' (Christ Lay in Death's Bonds) & '*Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ*' (The Holy Christ Is Risen) - J.S. Bach (1685-1750); An Easter Alleluia - Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

Processional Hymn - **The Day of Resurrection**

**#205**

The Gathering of the Community

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* May his grace and peace be with you.

*People* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All*

**to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,

**and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word (*please be seated*)

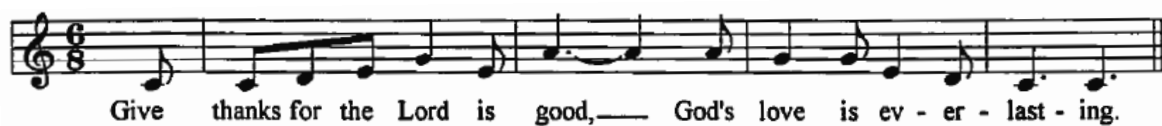
### First Reading - Acts of the Apostles 5.27-32

When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 118.14-29



The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.  
There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.  
The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.  
"This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! Lord, send us now success.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

"You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you." Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

## Second Reading - Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation (*All stand*)



*Cantor:* Have you believed, Thomas, because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. (*John 20.29*)

## The Holy Gospel - John 20.19-31

*Reader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

*Then at the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,*

The Gospel of Christ.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All 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 worshipped 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.**

The Prayers of the People (*As announced. You may kneel, stand or sit.*)

### Confession and Absolution

*The presiding celebrant invites the people to confess their sins. A brief silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All*

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.      *People* **And also with you.**

### The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn - **At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing**      **#207**



*Celebrant* God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is



shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

*All* Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*All* **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Lord, we died with you on the cross.  
*All* **Now we are raised to new life.**  
*Celebrant* We were buried in your tomb.  
*All* **Now we share in your resurrection.**  
*Celebrant* Live in us, that we may live in you.

## *Agnus Dei (sung by choir)*

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the instructions of the sidespersons. When you have received the Host from the celebrant, please move to the area indicated by the cross on the floor, briefly lift up your mask and consume the Host, replace your mask and use the provided hand sanitizer before returning to your pew via the south or north aisle. At the conclusion of the communion, silence is kept.*

## Communion Hymn - **Now the Green Blade Rises #237**

### Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Glory to God,  
*All* **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.**

*The celebrant then blesses the people.*

## Recessional Hymn - **Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now #239**

*Celebrant:* Go forth rejoicing in the Risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude: *O Filii et Filiae* (O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing) - Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Oscar and Lilian Smith, Norma and Charles Wallace, Jack Wallace

## **Announcements**

**Fr. Jesse always wants to hear from parishioners.** Please call him directly at (416) 829-7220, or send him an email at [therevjesseparker@gmail.com](mailto:therevjesseparker@gmail.com) to arrange a time to speak with him by phone. In-person appointments, especially for the sacrament of reconciliation and other pastoral conversations can be arranged as well.

**Repair Cafe Port Hope is coming back to St. John's on June 11** from 10:00 to 4:00. We are reaching out to everyone who has some skill in fixing things (ex. electrical devices, textiles, wooden items, china etc) or tech skills such as email and phone set up to lend a hand and volunteer for the day. If you have an item in need of repair, we are using timed appointments this time around. To volunteer or to book an appointment for a repair, please contact Penny Nutbrown @ [pmnutbrown@gmail.com](mailto:pmnutbrown@gmail.com)

**Join us for our Sunday Connection Bible Study** - Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall.

**Wednesday morning Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.** - We are again gathering each Wednesday for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Join us for this quiet, contemplative service.

**St. John's Online** - If you are interested in adult Christian education, prayer groups, weekly worship videos, parish news and more, please be sure we have your current email address on our mailing list. If you are new to St. John's, or if you've recently updated your email address, please send an email to [stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca](mailto:stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca) asking to be added.

**Prayer partners** - Deb Chapman and Bill Bickle are available for one on one prayer support for people in our parish or beyond. Deb can be reached at 905-885-7158 or [deb.chapman@sympatico.ca](mailto:deb.chapman@sympatico.ca). Bill can be reached at 905-885-6571 or [bill@fordelm.com](mailto:bill@fordelm.com).

**Prayer Requests** - Continue to submit prayer-requests to the office for inclusion in the regular prayers of the community, at the prayer services on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

**Morning Prayer** - A group gathers on Zoom for morning prayer every Tuesday and Friday at 8:00 a.m. No experience necessary to join-in. Bed-head, housecoats, and coffee mugs are all perfectly acceptable. Contact Laurie Robertson ([laurie.robertson4@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.robertson4@gmail.com))

**A Group About Prayer** - Every Monday morning at 8 a.m. (except Holidays) a group gathers on Zoom for a short service of prayer, time for quiet contemplation and a group reflection. Click here to join. For more information, contact Shane Watson ([shane.watson@me.com](mailto:shane.watson@me.com))

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**Thank you for all that you do to support our mission and ministry.**

**Our parish's operations are sustained by the offerings of our members,  
visitors, neighbours and friends.**

**Scan the QR code below to donate now by credit or debit card. We thank  
you for your generosity.**



## **Homily for the Second Sunday of Easter - Shane Watson, Lay Reader**

Last week at the end of the Gospel reading, Mary, after discovering the empty tomb and encountering Jesus in the garden, ran to tell the disciples that their Lord is risen! What good news!

Today we pick up from right where we left off last week. It is the same day. Mary discovered the empty tomb in the morning, and it is now evening. There must be a big celebration happening –like we celebrated last Sunday, right? Not quite.

That very evening of the day that Mary tells the disciples about her encounter with Jesus, the disciples are in the house; the doors are locked, and they are afraid. Wouldn't we be afraid also? The temple leadership in collaboration with the Romans have had Jesus crucified –he is dead, and they have been left feeling alone. Can what Mary told them be true? Even if it is, are they next to be suspended from the cross anyway? Fear may not be a strong enough description for their feelings.

In their fear, in the locked house, Jesus appears to them. He stands with them and says, "Peace be with you." He shows them his wounds –and they rejoice. There is no mistaking what has happened. This encounter with Jesus is what they needed. In their joy and excitement, Jesus says to them a second time, "Peace be with you." But one of the disciples is missing. Thomas is not with them. Perhaps he was in hiding elsewhere. Maybe he was less afraid than the others and was finding out what was going on 'out there'.

The scene when Thomas sees the others is easy to imagine, isn't it? Have you ever stepped into a situation where as soon as you arrived everyone is telling you all at once about something exciting that happened that day? Perhaps a toddler in your life took their first steps. What is your reaction? Happiness and excitement for sure –but don't you also want to see it for yourself and

have a memory of your very own? It's not that you don't believe what anyone has told you is a fact—but you haven't experienced it.

I think Thomas' reaction to the others telling him about their encounter with Jesus is something like that. "Thomas! You just missed it! Jesus was here and he's alive and we saw his wounds and everything!" Thomas' reply to this account from the others is how I can image we might feel in that situation. Perhaps he's wondering why his beloved Lord wouldn't have appeared to him also. Thomas doesn't respond with something like, "You are all hallucinating. Jesus is dead. He's not coming back, and we all need to get on with things." No—he doesn't say that. His friends have had this encounter with Jesus, and he too wants that experience. He wants to see. He wants to see it and experience it and feel it the same way the other disciples have. He's been told his Lord is alive and he's thirsty for the same depth of belief that the encounter with Jesus has produced in the others.

What happens next, doesn't happen right away. What must have felt like a one very long week later, the disciples are again gathered in the house—including Thomas. Through the closed doors Jesus appears. Whatever state of emotional turmoil they are in, Jesus says to them a third time, "Peace be with you." He next turns to Thomas, and without rebuking Thomas, or calling him a doubter, or scolding him for not being with the others last week, Jesus simply invites Thomas to see his wounds and to touch them so that Thomas can experience the gift of this encounter.

Thomas' response should put away any mislabeling of him as a doubter. No greater expression of belief will you find from a disciple than his exclamation, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas has been thirsty for his Lord. He's heard about the encounter that the others have had, and he wants to experience it also—and now he has. Jesus came for Thomas; and that is good news for you and me.

In my life, if I have twelve people to meet with and I am able get eleven of them together at the same time, that's pretty good. That last person, I'm sorry to say, will have to get caught out up later. We'll share meeting minutes or have someone relay what happened. But that alone is not good enough for Thomas and it's not good enough for Jesus. Thomas expresses what he's thirsty for, and Jesus responds. He gives Thomas the same gift of encounter he gave the others.

The point of Jesus showing himself to the disciples is not to merely prove that resurrection is possible, as if a fact that is good enough to know intellectually. He gives the disciples more. He gives them a transformative experience. Then he sends them out from the closed doors of the house, equipped with this rich experience and the Holy Spirit; to share this thirst for abundant life in Christ.

Just as Jesus comes for Thomas, our risen Lord will come for each one of us; not only if we believe with an unshakable and rock-solid faith (though blessed are you if you have that) but he comes in our thirst for that kind of faith. Like the father in one of the healings in the Gospel of Mark, we may proclaim, "I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

I can't expect you to believe because Thomas believed, or because I believe, or because the other disciples did, or because dozens in our midst do. Maybe that isn't good enough anyway. I pray that we each thirst for the sort of faith that Thomas displays in his encounter with our Lord.

It is good news that our Lord and our God will come for each one of us in our need if we will only be open to that and ask for life in the name of Christ Jesus, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Hallelujah.



