



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 11 April, 2021

Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

—Mary Oliver

Opening Sentences

Though the dew of Easter morning has dried
may the joy of resurrection remain fresh within.
For there is much to live for and much to delight in.

I carry within memories of love's in-breaking—
holy transcendence piercing through the crust of routine.
(bring to mind recent experiences of beauty and love)

Filled with awe and gratitude I say: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Creator of golden pears and ruby grapes,
waning moon and autumn leaves:
may I never cease to be amazed
with your handiwork.
Send your Spirit to me
who alone can open eyes and hearts
enabling me to sense your presence
within all that lives and breathes.

Help me to pay attention
and, in moments of wonder,
may I discover
joy and thankfulness
that never die.

Amen

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING WORD

Gospel Reading—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.

Reflection on the Word

*You might read the written reflection on the Gospel reading
or hold in your heart a word or phrase from the Gospel.*

RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES

Prayers of the People

You in whom we live and move: open the eyes of our hearts and minds and help us to see the countless ways your love pours into our world each day. You hold nothing back, but give everything to restore and keep creation and our very lives. *Thank you.*

You breathe upon us, enabling us to be channels of your healing and peace. Fill us anew with your Spirit, we pray. Revive our droopy souls. Instil in us a strong desire to love, even when it requires change or when it is demanding. *Make us your people.*

Standing on the transient ground of earth, we cannot see the path ahead and we doubt the future at times. Give us a sense for your invisible forces at work within and around us. Help us to entrust ourselves to the Great Goodness whose flow is leading us to life. *Be with and for us.*

We pray for places in the world that tremble with violence, disease or poverty. We pray for our nation as we continue in our pandemic recovery and vaccine rollout. We pray for our land and for creation everywhere. *Fill our hearts with your peace. Lead us to act as we are able.*

Hear us now as we pray for the world, those we love and ourselves...

Disciples' 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 forever. Amen.

Song

“Now the green blade rises”

Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum

Tune: NOEL NOUVELET

1

Now the green blade rises
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain:
love lives again,
that with the dead has been:

*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

2

In the grave they laid him,
Love whom hate had slain,
thinking that he never
would awake again,
laid in the earth,
like grain that sleeps unseen.

*Love has come again,
Like wheat that springs up green.*

3

Up he sprang at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he who for the three days
in the grave had lain,
raised from the dead
my living Lord is seen:

*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

4

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us
back to life again—
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:

*Love has come again,
like wheat that springs up green.*

Blessing

God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and around.

Amen!

—Michael Leunig