**Nativity Worships**

**Third Easter**

**April 14, 2024**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

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| Prelude | *Siyahamba* | South African freedom song |
| Entrance Hymn | This joyful Eastertide | H192 |
| Sequence | Siyahamba (in English before the Gospel and in Zulu after) | WLP 787 |
| Offertory Hymn | Good Christians all, rejoice and sing [vv 1-3] | H205  |
| Communion | Come, risen Lord, and Deign to be our guest | H 306  |
| Closing Hymn  | He is risen, he is risen  | H 180  |
| Postlude | *Camina, pueblo de Dios* | by Cesario Gabarain, 1979 |

**The Collect**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*Amen.*

**The First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19**

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

**The Response: Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem***

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; \*
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices \*
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \*
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**The Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**The Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy B., Dan, Nina A., Marian, Norma, Amanda, Duane, Ruth, and Jean and our family and friends, Miles, Bill L, Kitty, Georgia, David, John, We-Zen, Jay, Sarah, Seth, Dean, Connie, Chelsea, Violet and Aaron and the people of Palestine and Israel who are living in fear.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Sean Usle and Benjamin Vrana, and those who have died in the war in Israel and Palestine and those who have died in Ukraine.

**Announcements**

Save the Date June 1, Nativity Tea. $30 Tickets are available on the Give button on our [website.](http://www.nativityonthehill.org/) Please sign up to support the tea as a volunteer using [this form here.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4EACAA2AA20-48899873-volunteers#/) <https://tinyurl.com/Nativitytea>

Join us for Bible Study: *Acts in April*. No meeting on April 15th. We’ll study ([Acts 8-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8-14&version=NRSVUE)) on April 22, ([Acts 15-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15-21&version=NRSVUE)) on April 29 and ([Acts 22-29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+22-29&version=NRSVUE)) on May 13th (no meeting on May 6th). We’ll meet each Monday at 4 p.m. in the Nativity Kitchen.

Baptisms on Pentecost: Please call Rev. Kirsten if you would like to prepare yourself, or a family member for Baptism on May 19th.

Charity of the Month:  Join us in supporting the St. Francis Novato Food Pantry.  You can contribute on our website using the "Give" button, but sending a check to Nativity or directly on their webiste here: <https://stfrancisnovato.org/st_francis_community_pantry>

Confirmations at Grace Cathedral, June 1st. Call Rev. Kirsten if you would like to prepare for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of **Nativity pledges and plate** today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website,[www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.