

## Worship for second Sunday after Easter - 18<sup>th</sup>

April 2021

from Brian & Clare Kennard

Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20)



**Hymn suggestion:** *Lord, I lift Your name*

### **LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH;**

Lord, I love to sing Your praises.

I'm so glad You're in my life;

I'm so glad You came to save us.

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,*

*From the earth to the cross,*

*My debt to pay.*

*From the cross to the grave,*

*From the grave to the sky,*

*Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

### **Prayer time:**

*Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve: great beyond all words, but revealing Himself through His Word, and most clearly through the Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice that ours is not a dead religion that we serve, but a risen, active, living Saviour! Express your adoration, worship and praise in whatever ways you can.*

Fr. Owen O'Neill.

The chaplaincy team are sorry to let you know that our former colleague, who was R.C. chaplain here from 2001 to 2020 has died. "If we have died with him (Christ), we shall certainly live with Him" 2Timothy 2 v 11

### **Prayer for today ("Collect"):**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Bible readings:**

If you have your own Bible, please read: **Psalm 4**

New Testament: **Luke 24:36-48**

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

### **Meditation**

#### **Promises, promises!**

We make them all the time, don't we: "I'll lend you that book tomorrow." "I'll see you after exercise on

Tuesday." . Yet with the best will in the world we don't always keep our promises: some unexpected event may intervene. I've promised in the past to come to something and then found the car wouldn't start. We may suddenly find a more urgent call on our time, we may fall ill - and we have to ask to be excused from our promise. And sadly many promises are made insincerely - I read an article by a Baptist Minister in which he said that, if he could have a tenner for all the people who had defaulted on their promise to him that they would come to church, he could retire immediately!

The Bible is full of God's promises for mankind. Some are directed to individuals or to other nations, and so do not apply directly to us. But many are for you and me to take hold of. For example, the promise to everyone who will become a disciple of Christ is the same: "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." The great Old Testament promise "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed (fixed) on Thee" is for all who will fulfill the condition and fix their attention on God.

There are no unexpected snags or events which catch God unawares - He knows the end from the beginning. Nor has He a problem with competing demands for time, for He is all-powerful, present everywhere and beyond time. And God always means what He says - how could one who is the Truth do otherwise?

Let me draw your attention to the promises contained in our Gospel reading today. The first is in v.44 onwards, and is a reminder that every genuine prophecy (as recorded in Scripture) will certainly come to pass. Notice how Jesus says "everything must be fulfilled.." The "kingdom of this world" will certainly become "the Kingdom of our God, and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 11 v 16). It is certain that "at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

(Philippians 2 v11) We just need to remember that God works on an eternal timescale not on ours!

The second promise relates to the empowerment of believers by the Holy Spirit - see v.49. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were "all together in one place", and doing what? They were "waiting for the promise of the Father". Were they disappointed?

The promises of God are focused for us in the person of Jesus, for as the New Testament declares 'All the promises of God are 'Yes' and 'Amen' (certain) in Him". Trust Jesus with your life today. He will make your living worthwhile. And that's a promise.

### **Prayer time.**

Pray that the Easter message of eternal life in Jesus and hope for the present may be proclaimed around the world - and in Gartree- in the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember those recently bereaved, especially the families of HRH Prince Phillip and Fr. Owen O'Neill.

In your own words, remember before God...those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis and the many other difficult problems humanity faces....all those "on the front line" whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....that people everywhere would recognise that those of every race and language are made in the image of God and that we are all one in Christ...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

### **The Lord's Prayer** (traditional version):

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.**

### **Hymn suggestion:** *Faithful God*

**FAITHFUL GOD**, faithful God,  
All sufficient One, I worship You.  
Shalom my peace,  
My strong Deliverer,  
I lift You up, faithful God.

**The blessing:** Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. Amen.