

Hepi Ista!
The Second Sunday of Easter
11 April 2021
Virginia Synod

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Hepi Easter!

Grace and peace to you from our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on this Second Sunday of Easter! The staff of the Virginia Synod are thankful to be leading worship this day to proclaim the resurrection and to celebrate our relationship with the New Guinea Islands District, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, our Global Companion Synod.

The liturgy for today comes from *Book of Worship – ELCPNG*, “The Service without Communion” and is combined with the Revised Common Lectionary. The gospel for the day will be read in English and text Tok Pisin (language of PNG) will be shared as well. Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, preaches. She traveled to PNG in 2019 and was the first woman to preach in the Islands District. The music draws from our shared faith in Jesus and includes lyrics in both Tok Pisin and English. We encourage you to try your best to sing along in Tok Pisin. Make a joyful Easter noise unto the Lord!

You're invited to make an offering to the Virginia Synod's Scholarship Program to help fund education for the children of pastors in PNG. You can do this online by going to www.vasynod.org and then click on “Give” in the upper right corner.

Invocation: We call on the name of God.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

Christ is truly risen! Alleluia!

The Confession: We bring our sins to God.

Friends in the Lord:

Let us come to God, our loving Father,
bringing to God all our sins.

God is merciful and ready to forgive.

Mighty God, our Maker and Redeemer,
we poor sinners confess to you
that we are full of sin
and in need of your forgiveness.
We have sinned in many ways:
in our thinking, our speaking, and our doing.
We look to you alone for help and beg for your mercy.

**Loving Father,
you gave your only Son, Jesus, to die for us.
For his sake accept us and forgive us.
By the power of your Spirit
renew us and strengthen us,
so that we may love you more and serve you better.**

God is our loving Father,
Who has already seen our need
and has sent Jesus to die in our place.
Again Jesus tells us: "Your sins are forgiven."
Believe God's promise, receive God's peace
and live as God's people.

Hymn of Praise: Dispela De (This is the Day)

Tok Pisin (Pidgin)

Dispela de, dispela de
God i givim mi. God i givim mi.
Mi amamas, mi amamas
God stap wantaim yu. God stap wantaim mi.

Dispela de God i givim mi.
Mi amamas God stap wanta-aim yu.
Dispela de, dispela de God givim yumi.

Psalm 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned, or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses, sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with God's Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in whom there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus God's Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and whose word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 (English)

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When 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 Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 (Tok Pisin)

From: *Buk Baibel*, published by The Bible Society, Papua New Guinea (2018)

¹⁹ Ol disaipel i pret long ol Juda, olsem na ol i lokim ol dua bilong dispela haus ol i stap long en. San i go daun pinis long dispela namba wan de bilong wok, na Jisas i kam sanap namel long ol. Na em i tokim ol olsem, "Bel bilong yupela i ken i stap isi." ²⁰ Em i tok olsem, ne em i slim han no sait bilong en long ol. Ol disaipel i lokim Bikpela, na bel bilong ol i amamas. ²¹ Na Jisas i tokim ol gen, "Bel bilong yupela i ken i stap isi. Papa i bin salim mi na mi kam, na olsem tasol mi slaim yupela i go." ²² Em i tok olsem, na em i winim win bilong en i go long ol, na i tokim ol olsem, "Yupela kisim Holi Spirit. ²³ Sapos yupela i lusim sin i lus. Na sapos yupela i no lusim sin bilong ol man, orait sin bilong ol bai i stap yet."

²⁴ Taim Jisas i kamap long ol disaipel, wanpela bilong ol 12-pela disaipel em i no stap wantaim ol. Em Tomas, narapela, nem bilong en Didimus. ²⁵ Orait ol arapela disaipel i tokim em olsem, "Mipela i lukim Bikpela pinis." Tasol Tomas i tokim ol olsem, "Sapos mi no lukim mak bilong ol nil ol i bin putin long han bilong em, na sapos mi no putim pinga bilong mi i go long mak bilong mi i golong mak bilong ol nil, na sapos mi no putin han bilong mi i go long sait bilong en, orait mi no ken bilip. Nougat tru."

²⁶ Long 7-pela de bihain, ol disaipel bilong Jisas i stap imsait gen, na Tomas it stap wantaim ol. Ol i i lokim olgeta dua pinis, tasol Jisas i kam sanap namel long ol. Na em i tok, "Bel bilong yupela i ken i stap isi." ²⁷ Orait ne em i tokim Tomas olsem, "Yu kam putin pinga bilong yu hia, na yu lukim han bilong mi. Na yu putin han bilong yu i kam stert long sait bilong mi. Maski long tubel long bilip. Yu mas bilip tasol." ²⁸ Na Tomas i bekim tok bilong em olsem, "Yu Bikpela bilong mi. Yu God bilong mi."

²⁹ Na Jisas i tokim em olsem, "Yu lukim mi pinis na yu bilip, a? Ol man i no lukim mi na ol i bilip, ol dispela man i ken amamas."

³⁰ Jisas i wokim planti arapela mirakel o mak tu lon ai bilong disaipel, na mi no raitim olgeta long dispela buk. ³¹ Tasol dispela tok mi raitim, em mi bai yupela i ken bilip long Jisas em dispela man God i makim bilong kisim bek ol manmeri bilong en. Em i Pikinini Bilong God. Na sapos yupela i bilip, orait bai yupela i kisim laip long nem bilong em.

The Hymn of the Day: Long mari mari bilong God
(Tok Pisin)

Long mari mari bilong God, I salim Jisas i kam
Bungim Yumi Undanit long diwai Kros. (x2)

Chorus: Yes, yes, yes, yes Yumi kam bung wantaim
Na kamap familie, familie, familie bilong God. (x2)

Yu no save long mi, Na mi no save long yu
Tasol nau, Jisas i bungim yumi

Chorus

The Sermon: God speaks to us in the preaching of God's Word.

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick
(she/her/hers)
Assistant to the Bishop, Virginia Synod

The Offering: We bring our gifts to God.

God our Father,
With thanksgiving for your many gifts to us,
we offer ourselves to you.

**Take our bodies and minds,
our work time and free time,
our dealings with others,
with family and friends.
Take our dreams and our doubts,
our hopes and our fears.
Accept us and use us
in the work of your kingdom.**

The Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the peace from above, and the health of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the churches of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Church, your people, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us
pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, for those in prison, for the troubled in mind or spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For those who travel, for all in danger, for our loved ones in other places, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For Papua New Guinea and its leaders, for the United States and its leaders, and for all peoples on earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all useful work, for those who create beauty, for those who spread joy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, for seed-time and harvest, for all products of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Lord's 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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

(English and Tok Pisin)

Jesus loves me this I know
For the bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong
They are weak but he is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me (x3)
The bible tells me so

Jisas i sori long mi
Baibel tok olsem long mi
Long olgeta man b'long Em
Jisas save givim nem

Em man b'long sori (x3)
Baibel i tokim mi

Worship adapted from "The Service Without Communion," Book of Worship, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, Kristen Pres: Madang, 2017.

And from ELCA Global Companion Prayer Service, May 31, 2020, by Susan R Briehl.

Music: Wantoks for Jisas

Recorded and engineered by Brian Carr, Minneapolis, MN

Vocals & Instrumentals by Sol(e)d Out Worship & Brian Carr

Sol(e)d Out Worship - Dain Swanson, Heather Carr & Katripoli

Buk Baibel, published by The Bible Society, Papua New Guinea (2018)

Reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103414