

The Second Sunday of Easter + April 19, 2020

***WELCOME!** In today's Gospel reading the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around God's Word and Holy Meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in Holy Baptism.*

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE PASTORAL WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN – “This Joyful Eastertide”

(LSB 482)

- 1 This joyful Eastertide
 Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
 Has sprung to life this morrow:
Had Christ, who once was slain,
 Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
 But now has Christ arisen,
 Arisen, arisen;
 But now has Christ arisen!

- 2 Death's flood has lost its chill
 Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
 My passing soul deliver:
Had Christ, who once was slain,
 Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
 But now has Christ arisen,
 Arisen, arisen;
 But now has Christ arisen!

- 3 My flesh in hope shall rest
 And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
 Shall wake the dead in number:
Had Christ, who once was slain,
 Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
 But now has Christ arisen,
 Arisen, arisen;
 But now has Christ arisen!

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

All: 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 in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- 1 He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

- 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Acts 5:29-42, ESV

In our first reading, we hear how the first Christians confessed their faith—both through the words they spoke and the lives they lived. However, their witness and testimony was met with anger and hatred.

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to 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.”

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING – 1 Peter 1:3-9, ESV

This epistle (letter) was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith

in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (LSB 493 vs. 6)

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – John 20:19-31, ESV

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (LSB 463)

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

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THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: O risen Savior, set free our tongues to confess Your resurrection before a world still captive to sin and death. Give us courage to go to every place and to speak in every language the salvation won for us upon the cross and the hope granted to us of life that death cannot overcome. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O risen Savior, make us to burn with the fire of Your love, that we may love You above all things and love our neighbors as ourselves. Deliver us from fear and relieve the anxiety of our hearts, that we may live out fully the hope planted within us and the new lives we received in the waters of our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O risen Savior, open our ears to hear with faith all that You have done to save us. Raise up many who will serve You in the various callings of Your Church and who will serve us in Your name with Your Word and gifts. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O risen Savior, hear us on behalf of our president; our governor; the Congress of the United States; and all state and local elected officials. Guide them according to Your Word, that their labors for our nation's health and welfare may not be in vain, nor forgetful of the vulnerable, aging and unemployed. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

O risen Savior, across our nation so many are imprisoned. Bless all prison workers, that they may be humane and serve with integrity. Bless those incarcerated with hope for the future and amendment of life, help them to serve their sentences with patience and trust in You, and bless their families who love them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O risen Savior, hear us on behalf of those who cry to You in any need, especially the sick, the suffering, the disabled, the wounded in spirit, those who suffer mental illness and those in their last days on earth [*especially* _____]. Give them grace according to their need, and sustain them in their afflictions to the day when their sufferings will be exchanged for glory in the life to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

All praise to You, dear Father in heaven, for You have opened up to us the way to eternal life in the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We give You thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith and now rest from their labors. Keep us in that same faith, and embolden us by Your resurrection to be fearless in the face of disease, chaos, loneliness and every sorrow of this world. Give us the solemn expectation to cheer us: our Redeemer lives, and we, too, shall be resurrected and glorified to live with Him in His eternal Kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our resurrected Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠