

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

That You May Believe

April 6 & 7, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Although the readings appointed for each Sunday vary on a three-year cycle, today's Gospel is read every year. It is a reminder that although we are weak in faith like Thomas at times, by the grace of God and the witness of Scripture, we are able to confess Jesus as "my Lord and my God." With that faith bestowed on us we are able to share it, as the disciples did on Pentecost (in the reading from Acts). We are telling others about "Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood" (*Revelation 1:5b*).

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:25

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

OPENING HYMN #466 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!"

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain *Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!*

For three long days the grave did its worst Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo; And in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for your selves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there."

Refrain

"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won." **Refrain**

Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come.

People: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. *Rev. 1:4b, 5b-6*

Pastor: In his Book of Revelation John writes that Jesus "is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him" (*Revelation 1:7*). In our fallen nature we all have reason to fear, but together with John we know that God declares us righteous for Jesus' sake. Let us therefore go to His throne of grace in all confidence.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most gracious God,

People: we confess that we have wavered in our faith, at times seeking evidence that you have indeed conquered death and the grave. Open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds, to the joyful news of Easter. We confess that we have not always forgiven one another as completely as you have forgiven us, preferring to remember hurts and disappointments. Strengthen our love for our brothers and sisters in the faith. We confess that we have not boldly proclaimed our faith to the people we meet in our neighborhoods, at work, and in school. Grant us courage to use the opportunities you provide so that many may come to faith in our risen Lord.

Pastor: When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter evening He told them, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them" (*John 20:23a*). 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.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death and given us faith to trust Him for eternal life.

People: Strengthen our resolve to proclaim the full message of life: Jesus Christ--- crucified, risen, and ever present with us today;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM

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+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 5:12-32 (*The apostles proclaim the resurrection.*) The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

SECOND READING Revelation 1:4-18 (*John receives a vision on the Lord's Day.*) John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who

was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, and among the lamp stands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

5:00 ANTHEM

"The Heavens Are Singing"

Choir

10:30 ANTHEM *"Hodie (today) Christ is Arisen/Christ is the King, Alleluia!"*

Children's Choir

(Rise)

GOSPEL John 20:19-31 (*Thomas calls Jesus his Lord and his God.*) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (Sung to tune: #474 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Thomas refused to believe the report.

Alleluia! When he saw Jesus---He proclaimed boldly, "My Lord and my God!"

Blessed are those who have not seen the Lord And yet they trust Him! Alleluia!

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(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" Stanzas 1-5

O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'n-ly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn, at break of day, The faithful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see, Who sits and speaks unto the three,
"Your Lord will go to Galilee." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear; Among them came their master dear
And said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON "Resurrection . . . Really??" John 20:19-31

HYMN #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" Stanzas 6-9

"My pierced side, O Thomas, see, And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On this most holy day of days Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor: Thomas was the first disciple to claim Jesus as his Lord and God. That bold faith is the core of the Small Catechism's explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. We speak it as our confession of faith today.

All: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father of glory, remember your Church throughout the world, and strengthen all your baptized people to be bold witnesses of our Lord's resurrection.

People: Dispel our doubts, fill our hearts with faith and trust, and grant us to live daily in resurrection hope.

Pastor: Ruler of all, to your care and protection we commend all our elected officials and all who serve in our armed forces.

People: Grant them wisdom and honor as they carry out their responsibilities.

Pastor: Heavenly King, your Son promised that He does not break the bruised reed or quench the dimly burning wick.

People: Remember in mercy all who struggle with the darkness of disappointment and despair, and bring to their hearts the peace of your Son's resurrection victory.

Pastor: Forgiver of all our sin, you have given your Church the keys of the Kingdom.

People: Help all pastors to use them faithfully, that your people's joy may overflow.

Pastor: Your Spirit still gathers your children into the body of Christ. Therefore we rejoice with Ashley and Emily, who have been baptized into Christ, as well as Debbie and Stephanie, Jeanne and Kathleen, who join our Christian fellowship.

People: Bless them to grow together with us in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: O Lord, our Healer, we commend to you all those who are in need of restoration, whether of body, soul or spirit especially remembering before you Diane, Anita, Kay, David, Eleanor, Carol, Carri, Jean, Lois, Sarah, Irma, Nancy, Gerald, and Joe.

People: Grant to them your peace, that they may bear their sufferings with patience as they await your gracious healing and help.

Pastor: For all those who support our ministry, especially Pat, who sponsored our radio broadcast this week in remembrance of her Uncle Joe,

People: that God would bless our efforts to share the gospel of Christ with all, and that he would comfort those who mourn and remember loved ones.

Pastor: Lavish Giver of every good gift, your Son has set before His people a feast of love, a table where He serves us His own body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: Grant that we may receive this gift in a worthy manner so that the Eucharist may bring forth an abundance of good fruit for your Kingdom.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

8:00 & 10:30 THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI RESPONSORY "Jesus, God's Lamb" (Sung to tune: #474 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen)

Jesus, God's Lamb, Jesus, have mercy. Jesus, You take all the world's sin away.

Jesus, God's Lamb, Jesus, have mercy. Risen Lord Jesus, grant Your peace today.

Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

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DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door appealing,
Of-f'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'n-ly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sins and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

HYMN #629 "What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die
Under the rod? My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me? O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole
Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see the Lord is real.

Continued

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive
His very body and His blood. O taste and see the Lord is good.

HYMN #467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now its routed, His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.

Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'r-less form, How-e'er it rave and storm.

The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is ply, And night is bright as day.

Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.

He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified."

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Lord God Above" (Sung to tune: #474 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen)

Lord God above, Now let Your servant Go from here with the assurance of sight.
My eyes have seen Jesus, my Savior, Glory of Israel; for nations, Light.
Praise we the Father, the Spirit and Son, Now and forever! Alleluia!

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have again strengthened our faith through this sacrament. Accompany us now so that we may boldly proclaim the full message of life, found only in your Son's sacrificial death for us and His victorious resurrection, leading us to heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #482 "This Joyful Eastertide"

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

**Refrain: *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!***

Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist & Children's Choir Director

Choir Director

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pat Mundstock, Frank Coogan, John Ficken

Tyler Kroner, Rhiannon Mueller, AJ Olson

Roger Gottschalk

Nancy Hoelke

Kim Woller

