

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Resurrection Nickname “Friendship Weekend”

April 11 & 12, 2015
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Gospel recalls the issue of the absence of the apostle Thomas at the Lord’s first appearance and His special appearance to Thomas “eight days later.” Because of that we have given him the nickname “doubting Thomas.” “Doubting” is actually a kind word for the apostle’s refusal to believe! The apostles gave a disciple named Joseph the nickname Barnabas, which means “son of encouragement.” The testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus gave Barnabas the grace and power to be an encourager by his generosity. That same fact of Easter gives us the grace and power to become encouragers of one other.

WELCOME

The First Pledge “I Am A Church Member”

I like the metaphor of membership. It’s not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It’s the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: “Now you are the body of Christ, and individual *members* of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” (1 Cor. 12:26)

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #463 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia”

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!

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!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife.
Alleluia!

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!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *1 John 1:5b–7*

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: God is light,

People: and in Him is no darkness at all.

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie
and do not practice the truth.

**People: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with
one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father.

Lord God, our heavenly Father,

**People: we confess to you that our sins have brought shame to us and to your
name. By those sins we have done and those works of love we have
failed to do, we deserve your judgment and condemnation. Yet, O God,
you sent your Son to take away our sin. By His resurrection victory grant
us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Amen.**

Pastor: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the
Righteous One. By the command of the risen Lord, I forgive you all your
sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This Is the Feast”

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Refrain This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of
God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, by the joy of our Lord's resurrection you filled the heart of Thomas with saving faith. Give to us this same faith and joy that we may reflect your heart of love to those around us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 ANTHEM "All You Works of God, Bless the Lord!"

(The students will sing verses 1-4 and the congregation will join in singing verses 5-6)

All you works of God, bless the Lord! All you angels, now bless the Lord;

Come you heavens and pow'rs that be. Praise the Lord and His majesty.

Refrain:

Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!

Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!

Sing, you sun and you moon above. Stars of heaven, now sing His love;

Dew and showers, you winds that blow, Heat and fire, you ice and snow. *Refrain*

Frost and winter with song so cold. Dews of summer, your song unfold;

Light and darkness, you day and night, Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright. *Refrain*

Hills and mountains, now sing His worth, All you green things that grow on earth;

Seas and rivers, you springs and wells, Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales. *Refrain*

Come humanity, sing along, Sing, you people of God, a song;

Priests and servants, your Lord now bless, Join, you spirits and souls at rest.

Refrain

(Rise)

Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; All you humble, His praises start;

God the Father and Son adore, Bless the Spirit forevermore! *Refrain*

(Be seated)

✘ WORD ✘

FIRST LESSON Acts 4:32–35 (They had everything in common.)

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

EPISTLE 1 John 1:1–2:2 (Walking in the Word of Life, our Advocate)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

8:00 ANTHEM*“Beautiful Savior”* Robert Hobby

St. Paul's Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Jesus appears to His disciples including Thomas.)

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.

(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'nly 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 **“Delivered from Doubt to Faith”** 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 (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(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.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy:

People: hear our prayer.*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #490 “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Puppeteer

5-8 Grade Teachers

Choir Director

5:00 Organist

8:00 Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Debbie Ulbing, Laurel Privatt

Thomas Quigley, Brian Schaber

Laurel Privatt

Danielle Jackson, Bob Woller, Jack Burkee

Nancy Hoelke

Kim Woller

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller