

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Believing Is Seeing

April 2 & 3, 2016

AS WE GATHER

Easter is not merely a day but a season, and every year we begin the rest of the story with John's description of Thomas and his encounter with the risen Lord. Perhaps this is descriptive of our attitude as a church and as individual believers. We daily wrestle with our doubts and fears, with what it means to believe and what it means to confess our faith openly in the world. Could it be that we are so conditioned by the reality that is death that we struggle to hold on to the new reality of life that is ours in Christ? Thomas found out that seeing is not believing, but believing is seeing. So let us reflect our Lord and see Him at work in our world today!

WELCOME

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #480

"He's Risen, He's Risen"

Rise for last stanza

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.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

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.

(Rise)

Then sing your hosannas and rise 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.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands.

People: He has put all things under His feet.

Pastor: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,

People: that by it we may grow up to salvation, having tasted that the Lord is good.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord ✠ be with you.

People: Amen.

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

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, give to us your Holy Spirit that we may see with eyes of faith and confess with joy our Lord and our God. Bless our words of witness that all the world may know your Son, Jesus Christ, and have life in His name; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Acts 5:12–20* (Speak to all the people the words of life.)

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."

SECOND READING *Revelation 1:4–18* (I am the first and the last. I died and now I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death.)

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 lampstands, and among the lampstands 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 CHOIR ANTHEM

"Majesty"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Unless I see in His hands and His side the wounds, I will not believe.) 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 #474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" Stanzas 1-3

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

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

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

SERMON "That You May Believe" John 20:19-31

HYMN #474 "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen" Stanzas 4-5

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

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

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Refrain**

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

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

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by His death and resurrection has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father who welcomes our petitions. Holy Father, you raised up your Son from the dead so that He might bestow upon us His Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we might live joyfully as those who have been crucified and raised up with Christ in Holy Baptism.

People: Bless us with spiritual strength to boldly testify of Him, of His forgiveness and peace, and the hope of eternity, to all who will hear.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you preserve your Word among us so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ and have life in His name. Bless us who have not seen and yet believe. Preserve us from doubts and help our unbelief.

People: Whenever we are tempted to defy your law or mistrust your promises, forgive us and strengthen us in faith by the work of your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: O Ruler of all, you appoint rulers and officials for the sake of order and peace. Watch over those to whom you have given authority to govern in our community.

People: Give to them integrity and a desire to serve those under their authority, even as you work all things for our good.

Pastor: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim liberty to captives, and you delivered the apostles from imprisonment according to your will. Remember those who are imprisoned or held captive, whether justly or unjustly.

People: Deliver them according to your wisdom and mercy, and grant that they might hear your Word and rejoice with penitent hearts that they are set free from sin, death and devil.

Pastor: O Lord, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Remember those who, though marked as your children in Baptism, have wandered from the household of faith. Faithful to your promises, work all things in their lives to remind them of their need for your grace and steadfast love.

People: According to your will, grant that they might return to the faith and rejoice again in your Son who has died and is risen for them.

Pastor: Almighty God, compassionate Father, we pray for those who are sick, afflicted, or distressed, especially Al, Doris, Jean, Barb, Jan, Jean, Ruth, Mae, Bob, Marion, Richard, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah. Bless them and be with them.

People: Grant them healing in accord with your will, and peace and hope through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Almighty God, we are called to rejoice with our fellow believers. So we join the Knight family who rejoices in Rebecca's 25th birthday, the Rauter family celebrating LeAnn's birthday, and the Reynolds and Strand families who rejoice at Norma's birthday.

People: Open our eyes, Lord, to see all your blessings day by day, that we might be filled with joy and give you our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Son spoke peace to His disciples as He showed them His hands and His side. Grant penitence and faith to all who gather to receive His body and blood this day.

People: In his holy Supper, grant us to rejoice to receive the peace of the Lord always.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son died and now lives forevermore, victorious over sin and death. We give thanks for your saints who have gone before us.

People: Preserve us in the same grace and faith for the sake of Jesus, and grant that we might believe without seeing until that day when we shall see you face to face in glory.

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

People: Amen.

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

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

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 #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

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!

"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!

HYMN #851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

HYMN #527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow’r divine;
The glory that excellet, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lord, give to us the vision of faith, that we may see not only with our eyes and fail to behold your gift and blessing, but behold you through eyes of faith that trust in your Word. Keep us from pride that would reject what we do not understand, and shape us in childlike faith to believe in you and do your bidding without hesitation or fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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 #680 “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Debbie Ulbing, Dan Vaclav, Jim Adams
Acolytes	Dante Militello, Sophie Moravec, Brey Rudig
Children's Message	Laurel Privatt
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke