

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 24, 2022

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voter's Meeting Today - 10:45 AM

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN No. 488 "He Is Arisen! Glorious Word"

**He is arisen! Glorious word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heaven are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear What cheer!
Christ victorious, Rising glorious,
Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!**

CONFESSION *Psalm 91:1-2*

**L: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**

**C: I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."**

L: Taking refuge in the mercy of the Lord, let us come before Him in prayer.

*A moment of silence to reflect on God's Word
and to examine our hearts before Him.*

**L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
C: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. By the things we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have not honored You as we ought, nor have we served others in love. We deserve to be cast from Your presence forever. Yet in Your great mercy, You sent Your Son to die and rise again for us. Help us to know the power of His resurrection and to share in the joy that His forgiveness brings. Enable us to receive Your mercy and be renewed by Your Spirit that we may honor You as the Lord and God in whom we place our trust. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GRACE

**L: Hear the good news!
Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

**L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN No. 478 "The Day of Resurrection"

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All Hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!**

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit Eternal Three in One,
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who celebrate the triumph of our risen Savior

C: may join with all other witnesses of the resurrection in boldly sharing with the world
that Jesus is Lord and God;

L: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 5:12–20 (21–32)* (The apostles testify publicly as witnesses of
Jesus' resurrection.)

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148: We Read Psalm 148 responsively:

(Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13)

**L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights!**

C: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!

L: Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!

C: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**All: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

**L: Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For He commanded and they were created.**

**C: And He established them forever and ever;
He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

C: fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His word!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

**ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven...**

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

**ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

L: He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints,

C: for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the LORD!

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE is from The Revelation of St John chapter 1. *Revelation 1:4–18*

L: John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

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.

Behold, he 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. Even so. 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 partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow...

His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C: death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

L: Blessed are those who have not seen C: and yet have believed. Alleluia.

**L: The Gospel will be read during the Sermon. We now continue with the Hymn:
"O Sons and Daughters of the King"**

HYMN No. 470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" (vss. 1, 4-8)

**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 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!**

**SERMON "Lessons from Thomas and Jesus," John 20:19-31
Pastor Perry Schefelker**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31 (Read Responsively during the sermon)*

“P” - Pastor “L” - Lector “C” - Congregation

L: 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,

P: “Peace be with you.”

L: 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,

P: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

L: And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

P: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

L: 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,

C: “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.”

L: 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,

P: “Peace be with you.”

L: Then he said to Thomas,

P: “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

L: Thomas answered him,

C: “My Lord and my God!”

L: Jesus said to him,

P: “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES’ CREED *stand*

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- L:** Eternal God, as we travel through life's valleys, in the places of darkness, and despair, we know that you are with us. Even when life's doubts assail us, we know that you still abide with us, watching over us. Strengthen our faith. Help us remember that you never give us more than we can handle. Increase our faith and remove all of our doubts. Lord in Your mercy,
- C:** hear our prayer.
- L:** Father of all people, open our eyes, open our eyes to see you working around us and in us. Nothing happens by accident. You orchestrate every day of our lives. Allow us to see Your hand in the mundane and in the fantastic. Help me to trust in what we cannot see, and believe in Your invisible presence, working all things for our good. Lord in Your mercy,
- C:** hear our prayer.
- L:** Giver of life, You renew our souls through the power of Your Holy Spirit as we dwell in the shadow of Your wings. As we continue to celebrate the joy of our Savior's Easter victory, grant that Your Church on earth always speaks Your Word with boldness and confidence, that like the first eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection, we may share with all people Your compassionate love. Lord in Your mercy.
- C:** Hear our prayer.

L: Ruler of all, You govern all the nations with Your mighty and merciful hand. As long as sin remains in this world, its fruits also will be evident. Let Your holy church be an example to the world of Your tender compassion and care among all people, even our enemies. Show forth Your favor to the land in which we live, raising up men and women who will serve as godly leaders among us; blessing those who make, administer, and judge our laws according to Your direction. Protect all those who serve in harm's way for the benefit of others, especially all firefighters, paramedics, police, military. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: In Your Son's earthly ministry, people brought to Him all those who were sick and suffering that He might touch and heal them. This ministry of healing continued through His disciples in the earliest church. Even now, we know that Jesus heals, renews, and restores through the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, gifts from Your merciful hand to strengthen and sustain us on our journey toward the heavenly promised land. Lay Your powerful healing hands upon all those for in need of physical, spiritual and emotional healing today, *especially, those on our prayer list and those whose needs are urgent for Your divine care. Watch over those in urgent need today, Gwen Kemp and Paul Kjosa, that they may be restored according to Your good will. Lord in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

L: Watch over all Your children, heavenly Father, as their days increase. Bless and guide Zachary Kinsella, Harlan Feary, Diana Brandmeyer, and Carie Boulanger wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand, comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful, raise them up if they fall, and in their hearts may Your peace accompany them throughout their lives to the blessing of their families and friends. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord over every earthly family, it is your will that married life should be a lesson in Christian living. There we learn to share the greatest of Your gifts, which is the gift of Your great love. Grant that Dennis and Donna Brockmeyer continue in the love You gave them years ago, that they may continue to be witness to the greatest gift of love for all mankind, the gift of Your Son's love among us. Lord in Your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

L: You hold time within your hands, and see it all, from beginning to end, for You live outside the bounds of time in eternity. This week we mourn the passing of family members and friends who have entered into Your eternal rest and ask You to bring comfort to all who mourn. In Your mercy, please keep and carry the families of Noreen McKenna (Terese Beren's mother), Gerald Patterson (Kathy Husemann's father), and Trey Tyler (friend of Mark Morton) in their sadness and loss...

Cover them with your great wings of love, give their weary hearts rest and their minds sound sleep. Lord, lift their eyes heavenward that they may catch a glimpse of eternity, and be comforted by the promise of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We bring all these prayers before You, gracious Father, in the name of Him who is risen from the dead and reigns with You forever as our Lord and God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, who also taught and enables us to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

All: 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24-26*

P 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 475 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

SENDING

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!