

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Faith Lutheran Church
The Sure and Living Hope
April 16, 2023



As We Gather: We gather today still in the glow of the most joyous and amazing celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from the dead. The sights and sounds of that celebration linger in our memory, not as just a past event finished and forgotten, but as Peter calls it today, “a living hope,” as enduring and strong as the certainty of our living Lord and the promised future of our own resurrection. We return to continue the Easter celebration because in the afterglow of the days since Easter Sunday, many still do not know that hope. Like the absent apostle Thomas, we still face what seems to be a hopeless world. Today we remember that our only hope is built on a divine Savior whose crucifixion wounds were endured for us and for all. Indeed, we are to learn that every Sunday throughout the entire year is an Easter celebration as our living Lord draws us into His holy, life-giving wounds through His very same body and blood given us in Holy Communion. Thomas saw and believed. Peter rejoiced. Though we do not now see Him, “you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8), the only sure and living hope.

PREPARATION

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

God's Kids Opening [God's kids Song "He is Risen", Message, Prayer]

Opening Sentences

1 Corinthians 15:54b–57

- P** “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?”
- C** “O death, where is your sting?”
- P** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- C** **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8–9

- P** That victory remains ours by a God-given faith and hope. That hope is kept alive as we daily repent of our sins and remain in the promises of God. For, if we say 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.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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 are afraid of losing hope. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead for the life of the world, 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** Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds #465



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 Δ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln. Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139. Tune: Public domain

WORD

Introit

Psalm 105:1–5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2–3

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**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.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise In Thee Is Gladness #818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622. Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading *Acts 5:29–42* (Peter preaches over the objections of the Jewish authorities.)

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But 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. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For 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. ³⁷After 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. ³⁸So 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; ³⁹but 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, ⁴⁰and 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. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 Peter 1:3–9* (“Born again to a living hope”)

³Blessed 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, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Though 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, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

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

Holy Gospel *John 20:19–31* (Jesus appears to the disciples.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On 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.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even

so I am sending you.”²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵So 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.”

²⁶Eight 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.”²⁷Then 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.”²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹but 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

Sermon Hymn O Sons and Daughters of the King #470 sts. 1, 4-7



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
 5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had
 6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see, And look up -
 7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; He saw the



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."
 seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word.
 on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less but be - liev - ing be."
 feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Is our faith blind? - 1 Peter 1:3-9

Contemporary Hymn "Praise You In This Storm"

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious joy of our continuing celebration of the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ from the dead, we give You thanks and sing Your praise. By His death, He destroyed death and by His rising now gives to all who believe the gift of eternal life in the forgiveness of our sins.

Help us to walk with the certainty of a living hope of the eternal life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give boldness to Your whole Church throughout the world that Your servants, especially Your pastors and teachers, proclaim the resurrection of Christ to all people as the objects of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, save and defend our country. Give wisdom and compassion to all in authority that they may serve all people with justice and provide for the maintenance of peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lovingly embrace all who gather to celebrate the remembrance of the most glorious death and resurrection of Your Son. Increase faith and hope in the hearts and minds of all who call upon You, especially all who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity [especially for_____]. By Your healing grace, defend us from every evil to body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Other petitions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P We commend to Your mercy, O Lord, all Your servants who have departed with the sign of faith and now rest in the sleep of peace. Grant to them Your mercy and everlasting peace; and on the day of the resurrection of all flesh, grant that we and all Your servants of the mystical Body of Your Son, may altogether be set on His right hand and hear His most joyful voice saying, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

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.

Closing Hymn Christ Sits at God's Right Hand #564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
“A priest for - ev - er - more,” An oath God would not break,
To seal God’s guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, “Lord, here am I To do Your will.”
“A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek.”
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus’ blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God’s faithful grace
That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

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