

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Have Believed

April 10 & 11, 2021

5:00PM & 8:00AM

AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"

WELCOME

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. (2 Corinthians 4:13-14, ESV)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #464 "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

People: **we lie and do not practice the truth.**

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: If we say we have not sinned,

People: **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In your mercy, you sent your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by your life-giving absolution. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

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

People: 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 justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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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.
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.

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Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING Acts 4:32–35 (The believers were of one heart and soul.)

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 John 1:1–2:2 (If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ 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. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SONG “Let us Sing for Joy”

Did you hear the news? Jesus loves you so, Jesus loves you so, Jesus loves you so!
Did you hear the news? Jesus loves you so! Let us sing for joy!

Jesus died for you to take your sins away, to take your sins away,
to take your sins away!
Jesus died for you to take your sins away! Let us sing for joy!

Jesus came alive just like He said He would, just like He said He would,
just like He said He would!
Jesus came alive just like He said He would! Let us sing for joy!

Someday we will live in heaven with our Friend, in heaven with our Friend,
in heaven with our Friend!
Someday we will live in heaven with our Friend! Let us sing for joy!

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.)

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

People: 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 any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, 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.”

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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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY #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!

SERMON “The Power of the Resurrection”

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Merciful Father, at your bidding we come to you in prayer, trusting in your mercy to supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested. Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in you we may know the full comfort of your gracious presence. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Deliver us from pride and humble us by your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Make your Church bold in the confession of your name before the world and give your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Restore those absent too long from the Church's sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know your presence in their hour of need, especially Judy, Janine, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Arlene, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah,

Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Accept the praise and thanksgiving of our lips, the tithes and offerings we bring, and our labors for your glory, that we not suffer from ingratitude or the pride that believes all we have is the fruit of our own work. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Pastor: Remembering blessed Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ 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 Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. 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 #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

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
Then 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 is 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.

Musical Interlude

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 play, 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."

HYMN #487 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters,
Led them with un-moistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.

‘Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison
And from three days’ sleep in death As a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying
From His light, to whom is giv’n Laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts Comes its joy to render;
Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus’ resurrection!

For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb’s dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.

Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb’s dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, by your tender love toward us sinners, you have given us your only Son, that believing in Him, we may have everlasting life. By your Holy Spirit, give to us your comfort in trouble and guard us against all doubt, that we remain steadfast in the faith and come, at last, to life eternal; 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: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #720 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near And seek where you are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, With full and endless sight.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Grant Gundersen
Michelle Prince