

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Sure and Living Hope

April 15 & 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.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

If in Christ we have hope in this life only,  
we are of all people most to be pitied.  
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For as by a man came death,  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
1 Corinthians 15:19-21

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled-  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat;  
See the ancient pow’rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

(Rise) Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?”

**People: “O death, where is your sting?”**

Pastor: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

**People: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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 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.

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

#### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**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)

#### 10:30 ANTHEM

Grades 1-4

#### 5:00 & 10:30 BAPTISM SONG #605 "Father Welcomes"

**Refrain:** Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;  
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

**5:00 BAPTISM** of Alexander Meeks Jr Page 268

**10:30 BAPTISM** of Parker Rose Williams & Phoebe Ellie Williams Page 268

#### ☩ WORD ☩

**FIRST READING** Acts 5:29–42 (Peter preaches over the objections of the Jewish authorities.)<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.<sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.<sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.<sup>34</sup> But 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.<sup>35</sup> And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men."<sup>36</sup> For 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.

<sup>37</sup> After 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. <sup>38</sup> So 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; <sup>39</sup> but 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, <sup>40</sup> and 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. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Peter 1:3–9* ("Born again to a living hope")

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

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

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> 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, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So 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." <sup>26</sup> 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, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but 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)

**CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**"Do You Know Who Died for Me?"**

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did  
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,  
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,  
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

**SERMON HYMN #467 “Awake, My Heart, With Gladness” St. 1-4**

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.

**SERMON “Living Hope Even in Times of Trial” 1 Peter 1:3-9**

**HYMN #467 “Awake, My Heart, With Gladness” St. 5-7**

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.”

(Rise)

**8:00 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.

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*Nancy Mysliwski, Michaela Nix, Marla Rzatkiwicz, Olivia Voight, Dillon Volp, Kyle Welsh, Jake Wolf*

(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.

*Silence for time of personal intercession*

Pastor: O God, our Father, you have raised your Son, and He has bestowed the Holy Spirit on His apostles.

**People: Believing Christ's resurrection, help us also to trust the forgiving words of His servants.**

Pastor: O God, our Father, turn the enemies of your Church, and bring their hearts to repentance. Strengthen all Christians in their faith and in their service as your children.

**People: Help us all to be submissive and obedient to your Word, that we might walk in the ways of Christ and receive the salvation of our souls.**

Pastor: Prince of Peace, we live in a world filled with trials and tribulation. Fill us with faith and trust that you use these things to refine us, strengthening our faith and confirming us in your promises.

**People: Even in the midst of this troubled world, move us to rejoice in the living hope we have in Christ and to live day by day in the joy of our salvation.**

Pastor: O God, our Father, build up the households of your people, that your holy children, given new birth in Baptism, may grow in your grace and share together in your forgiveness and life.

**People: Bless fathers and mothers to share your Word with their children in their homes each day. Build up our families to live daily in your grace and truth.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we give you thanks for our new members, and we also rejoice in the extension of your kingdom through the waters of Holy Baptism. We especially rejoice as Alexander, Parker, and Phoebe are baptized into Christ this weekend.

**People: Bless Alexander and Heather, as well as James and Lisa, to raise their children to trust in Christ, worship him faithfully, and walk in his holy ways.**

Pastor: O God, our Father, you appoint rulers and officials for the sake of order and peace. Bless those you have placed in authority in federal, state and local governments. Give to them the desire to serve with integrity and honor and to work for the benefit of all.

**People: Bless us to be good citizens, to respect those in authority, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

Pastor: O God, our Father, we praise your Son's resurrection from the dead and draw strength from the hope and promise he brings us. Bless and be with those who suffer affliction and disease, especially Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Vern, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them healing and hope according to your will.

**People: Give them strength, peace, and perseverance as they await your deliverance, and graciously receive our prayers of intercession for Christ's sake.**

Pastor: Lord of life and salvation, we pray for the family and friends of LaVerne Grawert, who has passed from this life into glory.

**People: Comfort her loved ones with the comfort that comes only through the hope of resurrection found in Christ alone.**

Pastor: O God, our Father, your Son greets His disciples with peace despite their sins against Him.

**People: Make us confident in His mercy toward us, and gladden our hearts as He comes to us in His body and blood with forgiveness and renewal.**

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you that out of your indescribable grace, for the sake of your Son, you have given us the Holy Gospel and instituted the blessed Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, until at last we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### **8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

Page 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**HYMN #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

**HYMN #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”**

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

*Refrain*

**HYMN #737 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”**

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;  
For God, the source of ev’rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,  
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?  
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow’r Guard ev’ry childhood day?  
And did He not in threat’ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;  
and all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in Heav’n above.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,  
who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we  
thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this  
Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to  
rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled  
constantly to serve you; 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: 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 #469 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today!” Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply.

Love’s redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo! Our Sun’s eclipse is o’er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led; Foll’wing our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n! Praise to Thee by both be giv’n!  
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Lectors

Gary Knight, Katie Scepanski, Debbie Nler

Organist

Olivia Kukor