

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Believing Thomas

April 27, 2025

10:30AM

AS WE GATHER

Thomas is forever marked with the qualifying adjective “doubting.” How Thomas is known is due to one episode in a career marked more by faith and faithful discipleship. Could it be that the doubts that plague us are less marks of our unfaithfulness than they are challenges we must daily face in order to be Christ’s own disciples? What defines you are not the doubts but what you do with them. Thomas brought his doubts to Jesus. We, too, are called to bring our doubts to the Lord and to be strengthened in faith and encouraged in a life of following our Savior.

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

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6: 9-11

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

“Christ is Risen” (In the Tomb)

In the tomb so cold they laid Him, death its victim claim’d.
Pow’rs of hell, they could not hold Him; back to life He came!

Chorus: *Singers*

Christ is risen!
Death has been conquer’d
Christ is risen!

All

He shall reign forever.

Congregation

Christ is risen!
Death has been conquer’d
Christ is risen!

Hell had spent its fury on Him, left Him crucified.
Yet by blood, He boldly conquered, sin and death defied.
Sing Chorus

Now the fear of death is broken, love has won the crown.
Pris’ners of the darkness listen, walls are tumbling down.
Sing Chorus

Raised from death to heav’n ascending
Love’s exalted King
Let His song of joy unending
Through the nations ring.

Sing Chorus

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Seek the LORD and His strength;

People: seek His presence continually!

Pastor: He remembers His covenant forever,

People: the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Pastor: Bidden by the Lord and confident of His steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, almighty Father,

People: 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: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“My Redeemer Lives”

Verse: I know He rescued my soul
His blood has covered my sin
I believe, I believe
My shame, He’s taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe, I believe
I’ll raise a banner
‘Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

Chorus: My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives

Repeat verse and chorus

Bridge: You lift my burdens, I’ll rise with You
I’m dancing on this mountaintop to see Your kingdom come...

Sing chorus twice

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, who once delivered Thomas from his fears and strengthened his faith, grant us by your grace the same Spirit to confront our doubts and so be made steadfast and bold in faith and in the confession of Christ’s saving name before the world; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior, whom with the Father and the Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING Acts 5:12–32 (“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”) ¹² 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. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them,

wondering what this would come to.²⁵ And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Revelation 1:4–18* (To Him who loves us be glory forever.)

⁴John 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,⁵ 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 blood⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.⁷ 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.⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”⁹ 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.¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet¹¹ 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.”¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,¹³ 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.¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool,

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like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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,¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Thomas confronts Jesus with his doubts and Jesus confronts him with His wounds to show that the news of the resurrection is true.)

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

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presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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

"He Is Lord"

W&R 305

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! *Repeat*

SERMON HYMN

"On the Third Day"

Creation brings an offering, as autumn leaves turn to gold
The trees bow down in highest praise now made bare before Your throne.
The western sky, an amber blaze, at the end of the day.
For ev'rything must die to rise again.

The winter's chill, a bitter cold, as sin and shame leave us to fall,
The clouds now full of newborn snow, for grace to come and save us all,
Within the darkest night of man, was found Your saving hand.
For everything must die to rise again.

Chorus: On the third day behold the King
On the third day death has no sting.
On the third day, we're forgiven and reconciled.

The earth it groans in labor pains as flowers stretch to heav'n above.
Your creatures sing the prophet's song to be a gift of selfless love.
The sun is rising in the east, and Your Spirit is unleashed
For ev'rything must die to rise again.

Repeat Chorus

And so we wait in joyful hope for You to come and take us home
And so we join beneath the cross in suffering from whence we go
The greatest act of sov'reign grace in the universe displayed
For ev'rything must die to rise again.

Ending: On the third day behold the King
On the third day death has no sting.
On the third day, we're forgiven and reconciled.
On the third day the saints rejoice
On the third day, we lift our voice.
On the third day, we're united and glorified.

SERMON

"Delivered From Doubts and Filled With Faith"

John 20:19-31

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.
(Be seated)

OFFERING 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.

SONG DURING OFFERING

"Love Crucified Arose" Card

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people
8 according to their needs.

Pastor: Glorious Lord, you have worked the salvation of the world through the death and resurrection of your Son. Give strength to our praise, and let our hearts and mouths be filled with the joy of Your wondrous works.

People: Calm our fears, release us from our doubts, and fill us with dauntless faith and hope.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to die for our sins and to rise for our justification. By His holy wounds, bless us with the forgiveness of sins, and bless those sent to serve us in your name.

People: Strengthen your Church, draw many into the faith and into greater faith, expand the kingdom of Christ in our time and in the ages to come.

Pastor: Merciful God, remember those who 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 unending grace and steadfast love.

People: Work through us to draw them back to you, that they might return to the faith and delight in your Son, crucified and raised for them.

Pastor: Lord of hosts, you sent your angel to free the apostles from prison, that they would speak of the life of Christ.

People: Send your holy angels to minister to those imprisoned on account of Jesus, and embolden your whole Church to give a faithful and loving witness to His salvation.

Pastor: Lord, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we pray you to lead and guide our president; Congress; our governor; the legislature of our state; and all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Protect and defend those within our community who enforce the rule of law, respond in emergency and disaster, and guard our liberty here and abroad.

Pastor: O Great Physician, even the shadows of your apostles brought healing to the afflicted people of Jerusalem. As we rest under the shadow of your wings, heal your afflicted servants, especially Katherine, Wendy, Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Ardis, Noah, guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy and Sarah.

People: Give them hope and peace in Christ and bless them to rejoice in your steadfast love.

Pastor: Lord of life, we rejoice in your gift of life and join with Al Weil in giving thanks for the birthday of Stacey Kukor.

People: Help us all to treasure the people you place in our lives and to love and cherish them in Christ.

Pastor: Holy Father, your Son greets His disciples with peace despite their sins against Him. Fill us with grace and forgiveness towards those who sin against us.

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: Alpha and Omega, almighty God, who was and is and is to come, with you all the souls of the faithful rest in safety and in the assurance of the resurrection of all flesh. Make safe our way to join them, and bring us with John and all the saints into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom; 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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 HYMNS

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 unmoistened 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.

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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!

"I Will Rise"

Verse 1 There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say it is well

Pre-Chorus Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

Chorus (And) I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow no more pain
I will rise on eagle's wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise I will rise (I will rise)

Last time: I will rise!

Verse 2 There's a day that's drawing near
When this darkness breaks to light
And the shadows disappear
And my faith shall be my eyes

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Repeat Pre-Chorus and Chorus

Bridge And I hear the voice of many angels sing
Worthy is the Lamb
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart
Worthy is the Lamb

(REPEAT)

Worthy is the Lamb

Repeat Chorus

“Amen (Because He Lives)”

I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome, by the power of His blood

Chorus: Amen, Amen,
I'm alive, I'm alive, because He lives
Amen, Amen,
Let my song join the one that never ends.
Because He lives.

I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame.
I heard mercy call my name, He rolled the stone away.

Repeat Chorus

Bridge: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, ev'ry fear is gone.
I know He holds my life, my future in His hands.

Repeat Chorus twice

Ending: Because He lives.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless 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

“Easter Song”

Verse Hear the bells ringing they're singing
That we can be born again
Hear the bells ringing they're singing
Christ is risen from the dead
The angel up on the tombstone said
He is risen just as He said
Quickly now go tell His disciples
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead

Chorus Joy to the world
He is risen alleluia
He's risen alleluia
He's risen alleluia alleluia

(Alleluia)

POSTLUDE

“All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises”

Chorus: You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise
You did...You're alive.
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again
I know that You will
And all the earth will sing Your praises
All the earth will sing Your praises.

Verse: You took, You take, our sins away oh God.
You give, You gave, Your life away for us
You came down, You saved us through the cross
Our hearts are changed because of Your great love.

Repeat Chorus

Ending: All the earth will sing Your praises.

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Lector

Debbie Nier

Special Music

Praise Band