

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter Makes a Difference

April 6 & 7, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Easter made a difference in the lives of so many people! In the core community of believers, it wasn't a matter of something to believe but how to make a difference in the way a person lived. The other disciples had let Thomas stay with them until Jesus reappeared. It must have been a tense time, but uniquely bearable because they had met their Lord, alive. That change, the difference that Easter made, wasn't limited to the apostles; the entire group shared all they had, living testimony of Jesus' presence with them. How will you be different after hearing this great Good News?

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

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

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

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

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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

Pastor: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE #480 “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death’s prison, th’ incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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

People: may by your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God;

Pastor: 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* (Believers use everything they have to help one another.) 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* (God is light; He forgives our sins.) 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.

Walking in the Light

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

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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. ²He 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.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

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.”

Jesus and Thomas

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.”

The Purpose of This Book

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)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Rose for You and Me” (*tune: Jesus Loves Me*)

Jesus rose for you and me “Alleluia” let us sing.
Someday we will live with Him “Alleluia” let us sing.
Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia! Sing, Alleluia!
He rose for you and me.

Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #470 “O Sons and Daughters of the King” Sts 1–5

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 th’ 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!

SERMON

HYMN #470 “O Sons and Daughters of the King” Sts. 6–9

“My piercèd 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!

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)

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.

(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.

Heavenly Father, your Son is the firstborn from the dead. In Him, we have been reborn into a new and living hope. Nurture us with the pure milk of your Word, that we may grow to maturity of faith and have everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant to those ordained for your service the gift of the Spirit, wisdom that comes down from above, and grace to faithfully fulfill their holy calling where you have placed them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As your people are united in the common life and love of our Savior, grant that we would share that life and love with those in need. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Build up the households of your people, that your holy children, begotten in Baptism, may grow in Your grace and share together in your forgiveness and life. We thank you for the gift of life, and we especially thank you for Carol and Larry Hoffmann in celebration and blessings for their son Eric and brother Don on their birthdays. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have instituted authorities to carry out your justice. Bless all who make, administer and judge the laws of our land. Give them wisdom, integrity and honor to serve according to your good will. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As your Son's wounds brought gladness and peace to the troubled disciples, give your presence and comfort to the troubled in our midst including Ruth, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Comfort also those who weep, especially Berta Hemberger and Steve & LeAnne Rolefson in loving memory of Dale Bockus, niece and cousin who is now with our Lord and Savior due to the promise of life found in the blessed joy of Easter morning. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of the risen Christ, you give us the crucified and risen body and blood of our Lord in this Holy Supper. Let us taste that the Lord is good and continually grow up unto salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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.

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 ✠

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 always and everywhere thank and praise you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly do we praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord, who not only rose from death but has led the way for us to be with you forever. And so, with all the heavenly host, we raise our voices in thanks, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you did not spare your only Son but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand your love or comprehend eternity, we lift our voices in thanksgiving and pray you to strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as your witnesses.

People: Use us, we pray, so that the people around us will see our faith in all your gracious promises.

Pastor: Gathered in Jesus' name, we pray that you would forgive, renew, and strengthen us. Gather us with all who are faithful so that together we may join the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To you alone, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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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 #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!

HYMN #627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.

"For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"

If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.

Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can do.

HYMN #818 "In Thee Is Gladness"

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.

Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!

Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this Sacrament.

People: **We pray that you would strengthen us by it each day to use all that we are and have to the good of others and the praise of your holy name;**

Pastor: 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.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN #482 "This Joyful Eastertide"

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain **Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Katie Scepanski, Katie Librizzi

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