

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in the gift of baptism.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #385

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

- 1. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**
- 2. The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the earth rejoice and say: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**
- 3. Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

- 4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

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Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise (ELW p.140)

Refrain: **This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

- 1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.** Refrain
- 2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.** Refrain
- 3. 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
- 4. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.** Refrain

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, **the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Readings & Psalm

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd,

²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside

the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Psalm Reading: Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for-evermore.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe

in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia. (John 20:29)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of John, chapter 20:19-31. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22When 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28Thomas 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 come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Gerry Giese

Hymn of the Day: ELW #635 "We Walk by Faith"

- 1. We walk by faith, and not by sight: with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke, "My peace be with you here".**

2. **We may not touch your hands and side, Nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"**
3. **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:**
4. **For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.**
5. **And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light may we
behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.**

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Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering & Offering Prayer

Generous God, **in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these
gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In
the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

Communion Invitation

Come and know the Risen Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Communion Hymn: ELW #487 "What Feast of Love" Vss. 1 & 3

- 1. What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**
- 3. What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

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Communion Blessing and Prayer

Gracious God, **in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Blessing

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

- 1. Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain, Thinking that He never would awake again, Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain; Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. **Serve in love.**

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