

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 6 & 7, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (11:00)

Emma Milbrath, organ

* OPENING HYMN

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joi - ce;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

MUSIC: Trad. melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1963

SPANISH HYMN

66.66 D

Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

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BAPTISM (11:00)

* GREETING

P Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C **We are followers of Christ
who seek to hear the Word,
live the Word,
and share the Word.**

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

C **And also with you.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

v. 1. 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.

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* SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Praise Choir

8:30 Chancel Choir

11:00 Emma Milbrath, organ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*** GOSPEL VERSE**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life: Al-le-lu-ia!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When 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!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now 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.

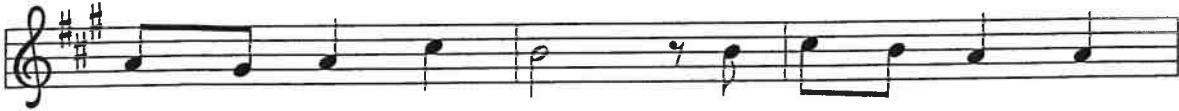
P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Pastor Sharon



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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 CM

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* THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

P God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

THE OFFERING



*** THE OFFERTORY**

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

Music: Dwight Liles

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Welcome to the Feast of Holy Communion.(Gluten free wafers available, ask the Pastors)
We believe that in the sacrament Holy Communion, the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. All who trust in Jesus and call upon his name as Lord are invited to receive Holy Communion. Guests who are with us, who regularly commune in their home congregations, are also welcome. Children who have not yet been instructed in receiving the sacrament are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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 testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

* 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**

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The gifts of God for the people of God.
C I am not worthy to receive you, Lord;
but only say the Word and I shall be healed.

* LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" ACS #966

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us
 Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions
 heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain

By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your
 wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your
 peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007
 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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JOYOUS LIGHT
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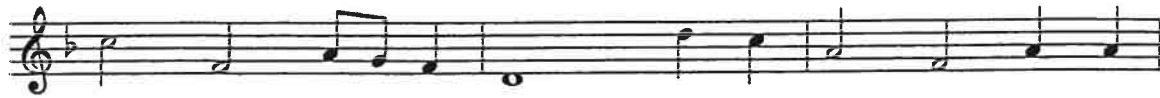
"Healing River of the Spirit"

1. Heal - ing riv - er of the Spir - it, Bathe the
 2. Well-spring of the heal - ing Spir - it, Stream that
 3. Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, Make us

wounds that liv - ing brings. Plunge our pain, our sin, our
 flows to bring re - lease, As we gain our selves, our
 chan - nels of your pow'r. All the world is torn by

sad - ness Deep be - neath your sa - cred springs.
 sens - es, May our lives re - flect your peace.
 con - flict; Wars are rag - ing at this hour.

Wea - ry from the rest - less search - ing That has
 Grate - ful for the flood that heals us, May your
 Sav - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us, Guide our



lured us from your side, We dis - cov - er in your
 Church en - act your grace. As we meet both friend and
 wind - ing hu - man course, Till we find our way to -



pres - ence Peace the world can - not pro - vide.
 stran - ger, May we see our Sav - ior's face.
 geth - er, Flow - ing home - ward to our Source.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1996, The Pilgrim Press
 Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, b.1927, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Gracious God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the mercy of Christ,
 our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P The God of peace – who brought again from the dead our
 Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the
 blood of the everlasting covenant – make you perfect in every
 good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing
 in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

"Anniversary Hymn"

Ylvasaker



1. I've giv - en you an o - pen door; an o - pen door for
2. I know you have a lit - tle pow'r; a lit - tle pow'r can
3. Be - cause you've kept the word of truth, the word of truth so
4. So guard and keep the liv - ing faith, the liv - ing faith that



ev - er - more. I've giv - en you an o - pen door that no one ev - er
serve you well. I know you have a lit - tle pow'r, but you have all been
res - o - lute. Be - cause you've kept the word of truth, I'll keep you safe from
you em - brace. So guard and keep the liv - ing faith, and sing your praise to



clos - es.
faith - ful. Sing for the Son! Sing for the Lamb and sing for the One who's the
dan - ger.
Je - sus.



great "I Am"! Sing from the heart and sing al - le - lu - ia! Christ is com - ing a - gain.

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* DISMISSAL

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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