

Second Sunday of Easter - April 16, 2023



Today's readings center on the witness of Jesus' original disciples, who are met by the Lord as they gathered together on the evening of his resurrection. They, and we, will be sent into a hostile world with the message of salvation for all people. The Holy Spirit will guide their journey and equip them, even as they encounter resistance by those who do not believe in Christ. Believers will never be alone.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE TWO

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIANS: KAREN WARNELL

MUSICAL PRELUDE - KAREN WARNELL

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*Spoken*)

In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES" LBW # 352 (*Sung, st. 1,2,3,4,8*)

▲ KYRIE (*Sung*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE (*Sung*)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Sung*)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray... **Amen**

▼ FIRST READING — ACTS 5:29-42 (*Pew Bible, p. 1085*)

▼ SECOND READING — 1 PETER 1:3-9 (*Pew Bible, p. 1203*)

▼ KCJAM & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (*Sung*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - John 20:19-31 (*Sung, Pew Bible, p. 1077*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ MESSAGE

▲ HYMN "LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS" (*Insert, Sung*)

+ RITE OF CONFIRMATION +

▼ ADDRESS

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to his apostles:

"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(*Mt. 28:18-20*)

Jesus also said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father, who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven." (*Mt. 10:32-33*)

P: Ella, you were baptized in the name of the Triune God and committed to the Lord's keeping for salvation. Recently, you were instructed in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. I encourage you now to lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and to joyfully reaffirm your baptismal confession.

▼ CONFESSON OF FAITH

P: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge the gift of salvation God has given you in your baptism?

Ella: Yes, I do.

P: Do you renounce the devil, his evil works, and all his deceitful ways?

Ella: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

All: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

All: Yes, 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.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: Yes, 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.

P: Do you hold the holy, prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Ella: I do.

P: Do you intend to continue in your study of the Word of God, to worship regularly in the public gathering, and to receive faithfully the Lord's Supper?

Ella: I do, by the grace of God.

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God in your public and private life, to faithfully follow the example of Jesus Christ in serving all people in love, and to share your faith with others by word and deed?

Ella: I do, by the grace of God.

P: Do you intend to remain true to the Triune God, to continue steadfast in the holy Christian Church and in this your confession, and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Ella: I do, by the grace of God.

P: With thanksgiving we rejoice that you have received the teaching of the Lord into your heart. As you continue your life of faith and service in the Lord's name, may the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit abide with you always. **Ella: Amen.**

The Confirmand reaffirms her baptismal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

▼ LAYING ON OF HANDS, BLESSINGS & PRAYER

P: Father in heaven, in Holy Baptism you made Ella an heir of your kingdom and granted her your Holy Spirit. For Jesus' sake, stir up within Ella the gift of your Holy Spirit: confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her for kingdom service, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

Parent & Teacher Blessings

Congregational Blessing

C: Give your servant, O Lord, your gift of grace and place within her a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and might, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, a spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

Prayer

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing your child to the knowledge of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Enable her always with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess his saving Name.

C: Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, she may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all your saints shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

[The Church presents a gift. The Confirmand and her family return to their seat.]

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

▲ THE PEACE *(Spoken)*

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

▲ OFFERING HYMN *(Sung)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Sung)*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS (*Sung*)

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

▲ THANKSGIVING, INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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. 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 in remembrance of me.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

▲ AGNUS DEI (*Sung*)

**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, grant us peace.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(Those who receive the Lord's Supper at their home congregation are welcome to join with us today.)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Sung*)

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Spoken*)

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strength us, through this gift, **in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (*Sung*)

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. **Amen**

▲ HYMN: "JUST OVER IN THE GLORY LAND" (*On back page, Sung*)

DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 16, 2023

"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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

--- John 20:27-29

So often the disciple Thomas gets a bad reputation. He is seen as being foolish and labeled as "Doubting Thomas." Those are unfair assumptions made of Thomas. He was not with the other disciples in the upper room, the first time the risen Jesus had appeared to them. Is it really any wonder that Thomas would have a hard time believing his fellow disciples that they had seen Jesus alive? As far as Thomas and the others were aware, dead people tend to stay dead. You and I wouldn't have acted any differently than Thomas.

No doubt that Thomas believed in the risen Lord and served as one of the greatest leaders and pillars of the early Christian Church. In fact, when Jesus had been informed of Lazarus' death, the disciples were hesitant to return to Jerusalem because they were afraid of the Jews. It was Thomas who said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (see Jn. 11:11-16).

Thomas *did* believe in his risen Lord. He was still in a deep state of grief, so much so that it overshadowed the truth. He allowed unbelief to cloud his faith. It isn't anything new that we human beings like to have physical proof of something. The other disciples had seen Jesus eight days earlier. Jesus invited them to touch him and see for themselves that he was not a ghost; he was in the flesh, risen from the dead. Thomas needed that. So Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds. And as Thomas did, he believed. Thomas' faith was reignited as he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28) We need that reignition of faith, too.

We need daily reminders that our sins are forgiven. God reminds us that we can't save ourselves. We need Jesus to cash that in for us. Like Thomas, we need our faith reignited.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive us when doubt and fear begin to overshadow the truth and our faith. Thank you for giving us faith to believe and trust in your promises. In Jesus' name, amen.