



April 16, 2023

**The Second Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion**

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 baptism.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME**PRELUDE****THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the thanksgiving continues.

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 **Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia** ELW 364

- 1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
 Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
 For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
 even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
 Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
 Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
 Jesus is living, alleluia!

- 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 until its strength by God was dispersed.
 He who gives life did death undergo,
 and in its conquest his might did show. *Refrain*
- 3 The angel said to them, "Do not fear.
 You look for Jesus who is not here.
 See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.
 Only the graveclothes are lying there." *Refrain*
- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
 He has arisen this world to save.
 Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
 Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
 Alleluia, to him praises be.
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
 he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord ELW 875
First time Choir, second time All

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cameroon traditional, collected by Elaine Hanson
 Music: CAMEROON PRAISE, Cameroon processionals, arr. Ralph M. Johnson
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PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray.

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.

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDRENS' BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

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.

A reading from Acts.

^{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;

²⁶therefore 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

¹Protect 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.**

³But 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.**

⁵O 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.**

⁷I 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.**

⁹My 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.

¹¹You 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.

A reading from 1Peter.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ACS Pg. 33***All Will Sing*

Blessed are those who I have not seen* and yet have come I to believe.

Repeat Acclamation

GOSPEL**John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **We Walk by Faith** **ELW 635**

- 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
 we may behold you as you are,
 with full and endless sight.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
 dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

.... Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

CHOIR ANTHEM *This is the Day Text from Psalm 118
Music by A Krentz Organ*

This is the day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

"God's mercy endures forever"

Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever." Refrain.

The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song,

the Lord has become my salvation.

I shall not die, I shall live, I shall declare the works of the Lord.

Refrain.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done;

it is marvelous, marvelous in our eyes. Refrain.

OFFERTORY HYMN God Extends an Invitation ELW 486

God extends an invitation
 to the table of creation,
 where there's wine and light and bread.
 Here we gather in thanksgiving
 and we offer all our living.
 Here the feast of life is spread;
 here the feast of life is spread.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:
 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING**DIALOGUE**

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
 the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
 who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
 of the resurrection,
 with earth and sea and all their creatures,
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ACS Pg. 36

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

○ God most mighty,
 ○ God most merciful,
 ○ God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise,

call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child;
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.
Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 O God our strength and our song,
 you show us a vision of a tree of life
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
 Grant us such life,
 the life of the Father to the Son,
 the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low-ed
 be thy name; thy king-dom come; thy will be
 done on earth as it is in heav-en.
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread; and for-
 give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give those
 who tres-pass a-gainst us; and lead us not in-to temp-
 ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from evil.
 For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the
 glo-ry are yours, for-ev-er and ev-er.
 A - - - men, A - - - men, ———

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *“Be Known To Us in the Breaking of the Bread...” ACS pg. 40*

The image shows four staves of musical notation for a hymn. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

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.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending of Communion

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen

Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and

sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are

sick/homebound/imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish

and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the

body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your

abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**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.**

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* ELW 535*Refrain*

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
 all our hearts are filled with gladness.
 Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
 all our hearts are filled with gladness.

- 1 Christ the Lord to us said:
 I am wine, I am bread,
 I am wine, I am bread,
 give to all who thirst and hunger. *Refrain*

- 2 Now he sends us all out,
 strong in faith, free of doubt,
 strong in faith, free of doubt.
 Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE**WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 16, 2023**

The Rev. Les Swenson, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assistant Minister: Jill Little

Lector: Paul Martin

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Kyle Galvin, Noah Galvin

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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**GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND WERE
GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Nick Ferro

Annamae & Bill Semrow

Nick and Norma Ferro

Lillie Gorr

BY:

Judi Ferro & Family

Judi Ferro

Judi Ferro

Judi Ferro

Welcomed with Open Arms

Thomas is not the only one missing from the assembly the Sunday after Easter Sunday. We are not told why Thomas is missing, but we do know why plenty of other folks are absent from the assembly: vacations, traveling, spring break for the kids.

Thomas is criticized for doubting, but he asks for nothing more than the same experience of the risen Christ the rest of the disciples had. By the grace of God, Jesus returns a second time and offers his body as living proof to Thomas. In the presence of Jesus, Thomas discovers he did not need the proof he demanded. Thomas' story is our story. We are not always where we need to be. Sometimes we even find ourselves in places we should not be at all. But Jesus comes to us, seeking us out and giving us the gift of faith. Thomas is not criticized, he is not condemned. Instead Jesus loves Thomas back into a relationship and shows the disciples what the words "Peace be with you" mean when lived out.

The resurrection promise can be heard through Peter's powerful preaching in the reading from Acts as well. Jesus will triumph over death. Peter points to Jesus' death on the cross, but what of the little ways we die? The loss of relationships, the ending of friendships, the pain of being alone and left out, the despair of losing a job, the doubt that comes on the heels of a negative diagnosis. Jesus comes to bring a holy peace and resurrection into the world in these times as well. This Sunday is an opportunity to proclaim the power of the resurrection and the grace of God, who welcomes Thomas with open arms.

