

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2017

Worship Focus

Jesus' Resurrection Brings the Gifts of Joy, Hope and Peace



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

150 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day;
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed,
4 Christ, who once for sin - ners bled,



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way;
Sin - less in the sin - ners' stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.
Now the first-born from the dead,



See the place where he was laid;
"Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry; Al - le - lu - ia!
While, in strange and awe - full strife,
Throned in end - less might and pow'r,



Praise him for the ran - som paid.
Now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
Met to - geth - er death and life.
Lives and reigns for - ev - er - more.

Text: Latin sequence, 11th century, abr.; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.
Tune: LLANFAIR (77 77 with Alleluias) Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord

ANTHEM

You Are My All in All

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*You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God Worthy is Your name*

*Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all*

*Jesus, Lamb of God Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God Worthy is Your name*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter is the first to address us in a series of sermons from the book of Acts. Peter's Pentecost sermon boldly announces the truth of the resurrection.

ACTS 2:14a Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

²² “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will live in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹ “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

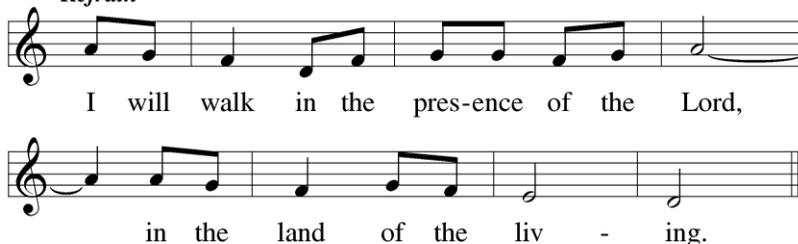
PSALM

Psalm 16

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
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Pastor will sing the first half of each verse. The congregation is asked to sing the second half of the verses, the refrain, and the Gloria.

Refrain



I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone



Keep me | safe, O God,*
for in you I take | refuge.

I said to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;*
apart from you I have | no good thing.”

I have set the LORD always be | fore me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be | shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue re | joices;*
my body also will | rest secure,

because you will not abandon me | to the grave,*
nor will you let your Holy One | see decay.

You have made known to me the | path of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your | presence.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-9

Our Risen Savior gives us hope for the future, joy in the midst of suffering, and love for him whom we have never seen.

¹ PETER 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

VERSE OF THE DAY

**All praise, O Lord, for Thomas,
Whose short-lived doubtings prove
Your perfect twofold nature,
The depth of your true love.
To all who live with questions
A steadfast faith afford
And grant us grace to know you,
Made flesh, yet God and Lord. (552:24)**

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

The resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples in order to give them proof of his new life and to bring peace to their lives.

¹ JOHN 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



HYMN OF THE DAY

145 – Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no
 2 Je - sus lives! To him the throne High o'er
 3 Je - sus lives! For me he died; Hence will
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing the
 5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the



long - er can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's
 heav'n and earth is giv - en. I shall go where
 I, to Je - sus liv - ing, Pure in heart and
 me from him shall sev - er, Life nor death nor
 gate to life im - mor - tal; This shall calm my



reign is done! From the grave Christ will re -
 he is gone, Live and reign with him in
 act a - bide, Praise to him and glo - ry
 pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ for -
 trem - bling breath When I pass its gloom - y



call me. Bright - er scenes will then com - mence;
 heav - en. God is faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence!
 giv - ing. All I need God will dis - pense;
 ev - er. God will be a sure de - fense;
 por - tal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:



This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 "Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!"

Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715–69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815–97, alt.
 Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SERMON

John 20:31

We are Earwitnesses!

1. That we might believe
2. That we might have life

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us shed our doubts and come joyfully before the Lord in prayer, confident that He will hear and answer us according to His promise.

Brief silence

Lord God, like Thomas we wrestle with faith amid doubts and fears. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that believing, we may see, and, seeing, we may rejoice in Your Son and in the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You know the hearts of Your people and those who have wandered into error or have fallen away from the faith. Rekindle faith in them and restore them to the fold, that their voices may be one with us in prayer and praise again. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the threats against us are great, but You are greater still. Deliver us from conflict, war and oppression, and provide for us wise and honorable leaders who will serve the causes of justice and freedom for all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we live in community with our neighbors. Make us good citizens, and give to us good government in our cities and towns. Open our hearts to the stranger, and help us serve our neighbors as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the trials and troubles of this mortal life weigh heavy upon us. Give to the sick and those who suffer the consolation of Your grace and healing according to Your will, [*especially for _____,*] that we may have courage, confidence and peace in every circumstance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the things of this world too often distract us from the one great treasure of Christ, who died that we might live and who lives that we might never die. Guide us in the use of things, that we may ever be grateful for Your gifts and use them wisely for Your purpose and glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we have learned to trust in Your mercy and to abide in faith amid all circumstances. Even now, we pray without fear that Your will be done for us, among us and through us, and that in all things we may learn to be content in Your grace and favor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

OUR FATHER,
*who art, in
heaven*

SERMON HYMN

288 – The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness To
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From
 5 It bears to all the ti - dings glad And



sent his Son to save our race, Pro -
 made the a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice And
 robe our souls in roy - al dress; From
 sin and Sa - tan and the grave; It
 bids their hearts no more be sad; The



claims how Je - sus lived and died That
 calls the souls with guilt op - pressed To
 all our guilt it brings re - lease And
 works the faith which firm - ly clings To
 wea - ry, bur - dened souls it cheers And



we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 all the trea - sures which it brings.
 ban - ish - es their guilt - y fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

PRAYER

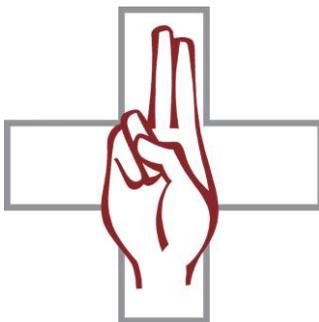
M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

153 – Alleluia! Jesus Lives



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus lives! He is now the
 2 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice; Praise him, ran - somed
 3 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and
 4 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, Life is yours e -



liv - ing one; From the gloom - y house of death
 ones of earth. Praise him in a no - bler song,
 fre - quent sigh? He who died our broth - er here
 ter - nal - ly; Joined to him, your liv - ing head,



Forth the con - quer - or has gone, Bright fore - run - ner
 Cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth. Praise the Vic - tor -
 Lives our broth - er still on high, Lives for - ev - er
 Where he is, you too shall be; You with him at



to the skies Of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 King, whose sway Sin and death and hell o - bey.
 to be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
 his right hand Vic - tor o - ver death shall stand.

Text: Karl B. Garve, 1763–1841, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
 Tune: FRED TIL BOD (77 77 77) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

