



April 16, 2023

The Second Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

♪ Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!

♪ For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

♪ Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

♪ Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 463-Text: Wipo of Burgundy d.c. 1050, tr. Jane E. Leeson 1809-81
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?”

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54b–57

Confession and Absolution

That victory remains ours by a God-given faith and hope. That hope is kept alive as we daily repent of our sins and remain in the promises of God. For, 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.

1 John 1:8–9

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We are afraid of losing hope. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead for the life of the world, 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.

A Time of Silence

Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ 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.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

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The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod;
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First Reading

Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that

perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response Hymn

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

♪ 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.

♪ Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat: See the ancient pow’rs of evil
In confusion and retreat; Once He died, and once was buried; Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

Please Stand

♪ Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on high: Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory; Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia! To the triune Majesty!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 477-Text: Christopher Woodsworth 1807-85; rev. Jubilate Hymns Ltd., st.2

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges 1796-1867

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The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated our Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God, through the same Jesus Christ, Your risen Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.”

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

♪ Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

♪ Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

♪ Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

♪ Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

♪ Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 490 -Text: Christian Furchtegott Gellert 1715-69; tr. Frances E. Cox 1812-97;

Tune: Johann Cruger 1598-1662; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Of Man or Of God?”

Acts 5:29–42

Offering and Musical Offering

Preface *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (v. 4)

- ♪ Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav’nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 465-Text: Paul Z. Stodach 1876-1947; ©1958 Augsburg Publishing House;
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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn

“At the Lamb’s High Feast” (v. 1 & 8)

- ♪ At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!
♪ Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by Whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 633-Text: Latin, c. 5-10 cent., tr. Robert Campbell 1814-68
Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

- ♪ O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav’nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ That Easter morn, at break of day, The faithful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ An angel clad in white they see, Who sits and speaks unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ That night th’ apostles met in fear; Among them came their master dear
And said, “My peace be with you here.” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ When Thomas first the tidings heard That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples’ word. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ “My pierced side, O Thomas see, And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be.” Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
♪ On this most holy day of days Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 470-Text: attr. Jean Tisserand d.1494; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66;
Tune: Melchior Valpius c.1570-1615; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Dismissal

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”

♪ Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sacrificed, O keep

The feast of freedom gallantly; Let alleluias leap:

~Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again Sing Alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!

♪ Let all our lives now celebrate The feast; let malice die.

Let love grow strong anew, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie. ~Alleluia!...

♪ Let all our deeds, unanimous, Confess Him as our Lord

Who by the Spirit lives in us, The Father’s living Word. ~Alleluia!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 473-Text: Martin H. Franzmann 1907-76; Tune: Walter L. Pelz b.1926
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Postlude