

**WELCOME!**

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: **Faithful God, we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as You have loved us. Forgive us, O God of mercy. Let Your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear and fill you with joy.

C: **Amen.**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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 366 “The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done” (stanzas 1, 2 and 5)**

### **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.**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**

Now 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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2**

We 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— this 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— we 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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu ia, Al



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

P: The Holy Gospel according to the twentieth chapter of John.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

When 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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." A 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." Then 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." 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 come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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 our Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

# HYMN "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"



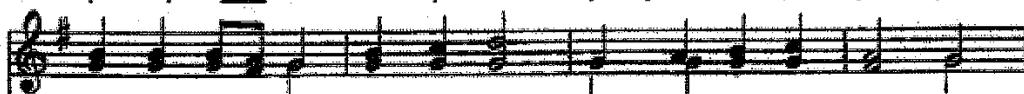
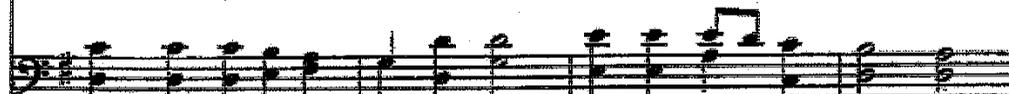
1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness;  
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst His pris - on,



God hath brought forth Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en.



Loosed from Phar - aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
Now re - joice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion



Led them, with un - moist - ened foot, Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!



3. For today amidst the twelve Christ appeared, bestowing  
His deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.  
Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold Him as a mortal.
4. Now the queen of seasons bright with the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render.  
Comes to gladden faithful hearts which with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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 THE CHURCH

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P. The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

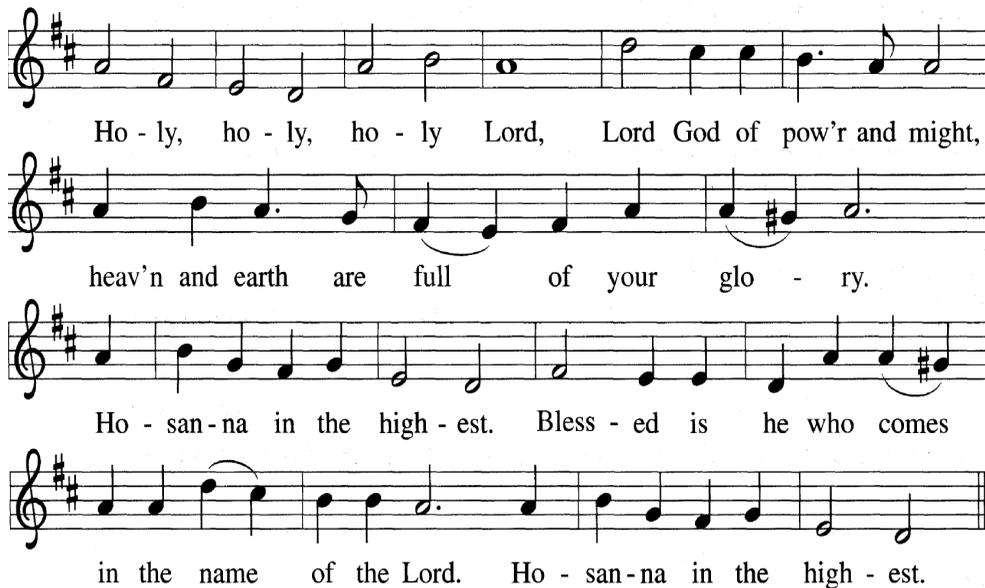
**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

*Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.*

**BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION**

**HYMN 376 "Thine Is the Glory" (stanzas 1 and 3)**

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Risen Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort in the next several weeks, we will be distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

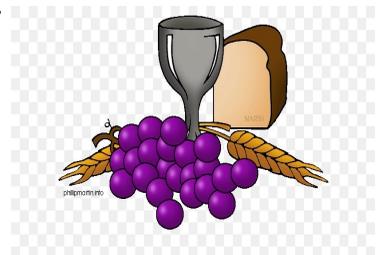
The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during corporate worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Then unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so that the elements are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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 strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

### The Second Sunday of Easter      April 11, 2021

*“...Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”  
- John 20:19b -*

It is Easter evening. Jesus has been raised from the dead. He has broken forth from the tomb. A couple of the disciples were at the tomb previously and saw things firsthand. They came back to the other disciples and reported what they saw. However, the other disciples did not believe what they heard about Jesus rising from the dead. Perhaps this was just too good to be true? Maybe it was a reaction to grief? Just a crazy dream? It seemed way too strange to be believed.

Where are the disciples now? They are hunkered down behind closed doors hiding like frightened rabbits. They were the ones who had witnessed all of Jesus' work, his miracles, his very words and presence, and where are they? They are behind locked doors, gripped with fear. We know what death, defeat, and disappointment can do to us. We try some new venture and fail at it. When that happens, we become fearful and think that we just don't have what it takes to succeed. When a loved one dies we have a tendency to think, “What is going to become of me?” Death, disappointment, and defeat all lead to fear. The disciples are gripped by fear. They are thinking, “What will become of us? Will those same murderous authorities do to us as they did to Jesus? We hoped Jesus would free us from the tyranny of the Romans, but now look what has happened.”

Now there is nothing left, only fear. And it was to these fearful disciples that Jesus shows up. He miraculously slips through the locked doors. He reassures them with, “Peace be with you.” He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. How is it that these fearful, disheartened, disappointed disciples become courageous and empowered to proclaim the Good News to the whole world? Jesus. The risen Christ found a way to get through to them. He appeared to them, stood among them, and blessed them. These frightened followers were transformed into believing, active disciples.

You might be feeling fear and disappointment, but remember that when you are about to give up hope, you have a future. Whenever you are gripped with paralyzing fear, it's then that Jesus comes to you, reassures you, and breathes new life into you. That's our hope you see, that Jesus comes to us! Amen.