

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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Aria

by Robert J. Powell

The prelude is by American composer Robert J. Powell (1932-). Powell composes mostly sacred choral and organ music. His style has been described as neo-romantic, which is popular with both choirs and organists.

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN 389 "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" (vs. 1-4)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 OF PRAISE

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!



All: 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



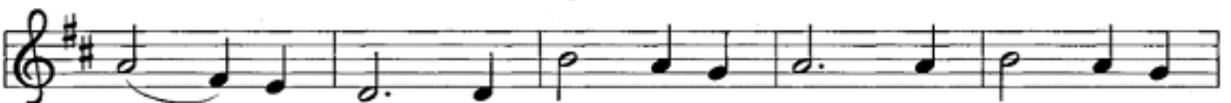
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



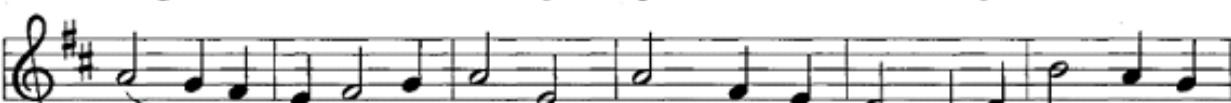
strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the

firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 20th 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 the Lord!

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM Rondo on an Irish Tune

by Mark Meuser

with Ila Rondeau and Kenichro Matsuda, violists

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

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

Response: P: ...Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

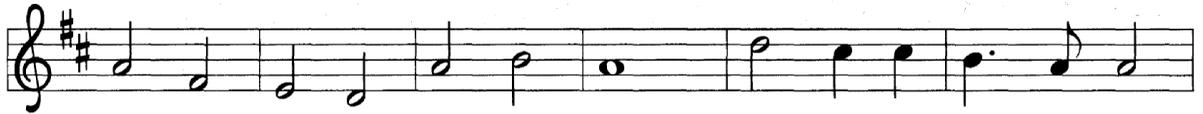
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 376 "Thine Is the Glory"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Resurrection Dance

by Adrian Fish

APRIL 24, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Thomas' experience is like our own.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Acts 5:27-32	The conviction of the apostles
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-8	Christ sends a message to John
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:4-8	A living hope
Thursday	Hebrews 11:1-22	Faith in what we do not see
Friday	Hebrews 11:23-40	The faith of the Israelite leaders
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we long to see your presence in our world. Come, Holy Spirit, that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, a sign of your love for us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the faith to see and experience the love of Christ Jesus.



APRIL 24, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Walk by Faith



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you long to see?
- How do you experience Jesus in the world without seeing his physical presence?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas' story is a continuation of the story of Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus (John 20:1-18). She experiences grief, confusion, then recognition and a changed identity as a follower of her teacher, her Lord. The news of Jesus' resurrection seems too good to be true. Thomas experiences deep disappointment and displeasure. He has missed what the other disciples experienced a week ago and he wants that experience, too. A week later, he has his own personal encounter with the resurrected Lord and becomes the first to make the confession of faith, "My Lord and my God." Jesus recognizes the importance of this personal encounter with Thomas and for all future generations of disciples. We will "see" Jesus in the body of Christ through the word announced and through water, bread, and wine. This lets the "Word become flesh" (John 1:14) and dwell among us today.

Discuss: How does the resurrected Lord become evident—seen—in your life?

Pray: Lord Jesus, we thank you for coming to Thomas and the other disciples and for coming to us in suffering and in glory through your living church. Amen

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help others see Jesus through your actions and words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



If you planted an Easter Garden, enjoy the growing flowers and other plants and also notice other new growth outside during this season. As you observe the plants and marvel at God's creation, recall the saving work of Christ to redeem all that God has created. Finish by saying: **Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2022

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

–Revelation 1:5b–

“To him who loves us:” Could any words ring more sweetly? Could any words carry more significance? Could any words effect more change for our lives and our destiny? Could any words carry more power or authority to define us? Could any words better describe the heart of God toward us?

Jesus loves us, and he has freed us from our sins so that we may draw near and experience him and his love. And he wants us to tell others of his love so they can experience him too.

Notice the tense of the verb “loves.” He loves us, not “loved us,” or “will love us.” His love isn’t in the past, and it’s not at some point in the future when we finally “deserve” it. He loves us right here and right now.

God loves us, period. And, although the above verse specifically speaks of Jesus, Scripture tells us Jesus, “is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Heb. 1:3a). Jesus himself said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9b). So, there is no difference between Jesus’ love for us and the Father’s love for us. We are completely and unreservedly loved by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Love permeates and drives God’s every decision and interaction with us. Even his discipline is framed in love (Heb. 12:6). God is love (see 1 Jn. 4:16), so he cannot not love. He remains with us forever (see Matt. 28:20b), so we are never separated from his love. There is no power, authority, or sin that can cancel or diminish his love for us (see Rom. 8:38–39). We simply cannot escape or deter his love.

God longs for us to increasingly believe, know, experience, and receive his love, to live life saturated in him and his love (see Jn. 15:5, 9). The more we are able to do this, the more like Christ we become, the more we grow in love for God, and the more we grow to love others (see 1 Jn. 4:19). In other words, God’s love transforms us from the inside out.

So, believe, receive, and draw near, and you will experience the sweetest, most significant, mighty, defining, transformative, destiny-changing power in the universe: God and his love.