Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

Hidden with Christ
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.
Gathering

You may wish to prepare for worship by lighting a candle and/or placing a small bowl of water nearby as a remembrance for baptism.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*O Blessed Spring*, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving.*

The ministers begin the thanksgiving:

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water--the Des Plaines River, the Salt Creek, Lake Michigan, the Mississippi River, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water:

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We praise you, O God, for our water stories--a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We remember the waters of Jesus--baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciples’ feet.

We praise you, O God, for water:

**We praise you, O God, for water.**

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen:

**Amen, and amen.**
Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! ELW 385

We sing:

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph
2 The Lord of life is ris’n this day; death’s mighty stone is
3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring;
rolled away; let all the earth rejoice and say:
cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high:
one accord, the life laid down, the life restored:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
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Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

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**

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Word

Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

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

As we welcome the gospel, we sing or say:

Gospel

John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O 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.**
Prayers of Intercession

As we begin our prayers, together, we sing or speak this prayer response:

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:

peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.

God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

After each petition, the assembly responds:

Protect ... O God, for we take refuge in you.

We continue to hold in prayer:

Our bishops, Elizabeth Eaton and the ELCA Churchwide staff;
Yehiel Curry, and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod staff
Missionaries throughout the world especially Pr. Mawien Ariik and
Pr. Wal Luot Reat in South Sudan; and Pr. Alex LaChapelle in Nairobi,
whom we support
Our ecumenical brothers and sisters in the countries of
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Our community of faith, especially our pastors and staff, leadership and volunteers.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now
and forever. Amen.
Sending

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

As the service concludes, we share the peace with each other near and far.

Postlude

Song Without Words in A Major, Op. 19 No. 3, Felix Mendelssohn
Ethan Mellema, piano

Acknowledgements


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