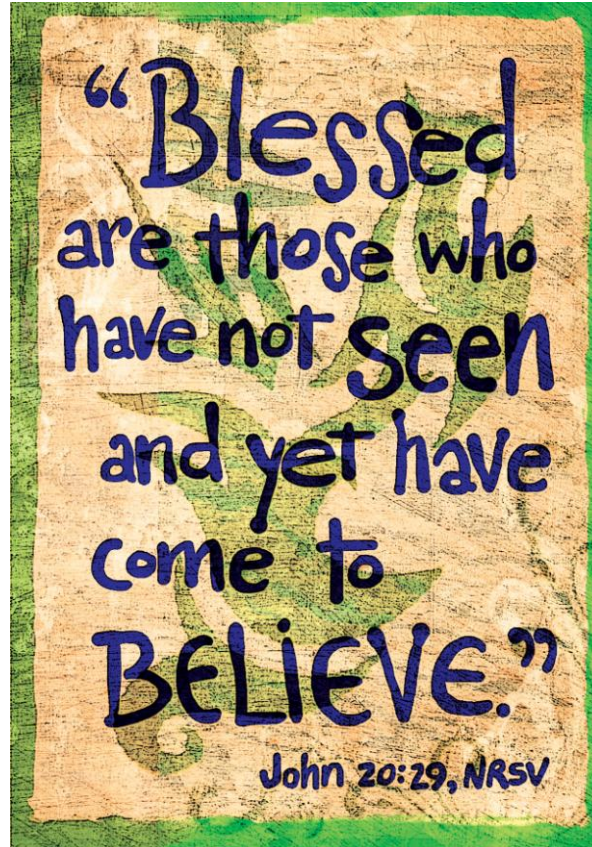


*Second Sunday After Easter*  
*Sunday, April 19, 2020*



**PRELUDE**

**INTRODUCTION**

In today's gospel, the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

**WELCOME**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word, you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family.  
 Through the sea, you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
 At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
 By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons,  
 making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
 We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
 and above all, we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
 Shower us with your Spirit,  
 and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
 To you be given honor and praise  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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## GREETING

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

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

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

# Word

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned. A reading from Acts.*

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, <sup>22</sup>“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*(read responsively with lector)*

**Psalm 16**

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings. A reading from 1 Peter.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed 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, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>for 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 “Celtic Alleluia”

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

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

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

<sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.”

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>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.”<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

If you’ve been coming to the church for awhile, there are probably certain responses that have now become automatic for you. You don’t even have to think about them very much—you hear the leading phrase and your response comes right out. For example...

If I say, “The Lord be with you,” then you would say...

(and also with you.)

If I say, “Word of God, word of life,” then you say...

(Thanks be to God.)

And if I say, “He is risen!,” then you would say...

(He is risen indeed!)

But sometimes, that last one just might require a little more thought. Or else it might become something that has very little to do with you and me.

That’s always been a challenge with belief in the resurrection. How easy it is to let that belief become something that’s distant from us. It’s something that happened to Jesus. It’s something that we read about in the Bible or hear proclaimed in church once a year. At the most, it’s something that I don’t really have to think about until my life is over.

And yet, very early on in the life of the Christian church, believers became convinced that the resurrection was something that was having a direct affect on their own lives—and not only as something that might show up at the end of those lives, but also every day. They lived life in the light of the resurrection. Is that even a possibility for us?

I mean, sure, the resurrection was something wonderful for Jesus, but what does it have to do with us? Will the resurrection and five bucks get you a cup of coffee?

Today’s gospel reading illustrates pretty clearly that we’re all standing in two different worlds: a world of faith, and a world of doubt. A world of joy and a world of fear. I know that this gospel has forever ruined Thomas’ reputation, and that he will forever be known as “doubting Thomas,” but John the gospel author really wants us to be able to see ourselves in Thomas.

When you think about it, Thomas’ reaction actually makes a lot of sense. He had just been confronted with something that should have been impossible. Jesus, whom he knew for a fact had died on the cross, had been seen by the other disciples and was alive!

But Thomas lived in the real world like the rest of us, and he knew that that couldn’t be. So, for the moment, he was opting for the more reasonable approach. He wasn’t going to just plunge headfirst into belief in something that didn’t make any sense to him. What the other disciples had told him about was something that he couldn’t explain, control or investigate on his own. And until he could do these things, he was going to hold on to his judgment.

That’s reasonable, right?

But John gives us this story for the benefit of believers who never knew and never will know the historical Jesus. We notice that Thomas sets certain conditions for his belief: “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.” We also notice that Thomas apparently doesn’t do any of these things. While he may be able to see the mark of the nails in Jesus’ hands, the reading says nothing about Thomas putting his finger in the mark or putting his hand into Jesus’ side. And the message there would seem to be that you don’t need to be able to do that stuff in order to be able to believe. And Thomas himself goes on to make one of the greatest confessions of the New Testament: “My Lord and my God!”

Therefore, we who gather many, many years after Thomas made his confession are also called to have faith—to be willing to surrender some of our “reason” and our “rational thinking” to believe in what should be impossible. Dead people don’t come back to life. And yet we are all called to give up the fear to love, to joy.

The resurrection is absolutely central to our Christian faith. Had Christ not been raised from the dead, our faith would be in vain. Yet on this belief everything that is important to us hangs: our belief about who God is, about what God is up to in this world, about who we are as children of God, about what we are supposed to be up to in this world. The belief is not merely a good ending to a rather sad story, or something to provide a little comfort for us as we near the end of life. God truly has “given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

This is our legacy, our hope for years to come. And we are just getting started with our celebration of this hope! So, say it with me again:

He is risen!  
 (He is risen indeed!)  
 Amen!

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      *“We Walk by Faith”*



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”  
 we re - joice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.  
 Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways to health and safety for all. We pray for all essential workers who are most at risk in these times: healthcare workers, grocery store workers, and all whose work requires them to come into close contact with others. Protect them and give them strength and courage for their work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith. Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

## *Meal*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## *Sending*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

## SENDING HYMN

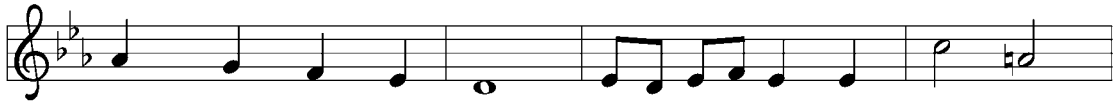
### "Thine Is the Glory"



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939  
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

## DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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