

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THEME: Jesus moves us from doubt to faith.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

WE CONFESS OUR SINS.....

P: It is good for us to confess our sins, admit our doubts and fears. The disciple Thomas was the one who said, "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". During this moment of silence we reflect upon our own doubts about God's promises, His salvific work through Jesus, and His plans for our eternal life.

Silence for Reflection

P: We confess.....

C: We have to face it Lord.....we're sinners in need of your grace. We go against your loving will in our thoughts, words and actions. We also admit that we sometimes doubt your love, your involvement in our lives, your very existence.....So we come to you now, confessing our sin, asking for your forgiveness, and grace to cover our doubts and fears.

.....AND RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: Jesus brings Thomas from doubt to faith. By offering Thomas his peace, Jesus was forgiving Thomas and moving him forward to active service for his kingdom. Jesus does this too for us. God sent His Son Jesus to forgive us of our sins. By the command of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.....in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustain eth:
Hast thou not seen How thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder a new What the Almighty can do
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people a gain:
Gladly for ever adore him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with You!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray together:

C: O Lord, we thank you for your gracious love that accepts us just as we are.....with our doubts and fears. Give us your Spirit of humility and strength, so that we can be honest about our doubts and weaknesses, and so draw more and more strength from you.....through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Acts 5:29-42

Peter tells of the purpose of Jesus' coming into the world and why he had to die.

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to 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."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But 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. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For 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. After 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. So 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; but 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, and 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. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Epistle: I Peter 1:3-9

The outcome of our faith is "the salvation of our souls".

Blessed 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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so 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. Though 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Jesus comes and meets Thomas, the one doubting his resurrection

On 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." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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."

Eight 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." Then 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." 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 believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you.**

(repeat)

See you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy.....holy, holy, holy.....holy, holy, holy,

I want to see you.

(repeat)

SERMON

"What to do with our doubts"

APOSTLE'S 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 was 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 Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERING (We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERING SONG Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
(repeat)
And now, let the weak say "I am strong"
Let the poor say "I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for me."
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,
Give thanks.....give thanks.....give thanks.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**)

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 241

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC