

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2017

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

**AS WE GATHER.....**On Easter evening and again the following Sunday, because the disciples saw Jesus alive, they knew the resurrection was real; and they believed in Him. They were then able to witness to their faith in spite of opposition and persecution from the Jewish council. Though grieved by various traits, it was the “living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:3) that enabled the Early Church to rejoice. The reality of the resurrection becomes evident to people around us as we live out our faith; they join us and “have life in His name” (John 20:31).

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING BLESSING

### WE CONFESS OUR SINS

Pastor: Psalm 28 says, “Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.” This passage reminds us that we are to revere God and His place of worship above all other things. A rightly prioritized life has God in the center. Let us now take some time to reflect upon the priorities we have chosen.

*Silence for Reflection*

Pastor: We confess.

**People: We have to face it Lord, we are sinners in need of your grace. We have not made You the number one priority in our lives. Instead, we have valued those things that have little to do with you: comfort, fear of the unknown, work. For this reason, we come to you now, confessing our sin, asking for your forgiveness, and grace to reprioritize our lives.**

### RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Jesus’ number one priority is us. There were no distractions that slowed Jesus down as he made his way to the cross. Jesus set aside earthly concern to make us his priority. Because of this, grace is ours. I announce this grace to you today in the forgiveness of 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.

**People: Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## "Blessed Be Your Name"

Blessed be your name  
In the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be Your name  
When I'm found in the desert place,  
Though I walk through the wilderness,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise,  
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's "all as it should be."  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise,  
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away,  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
"Lord, blessed be Your name"

You give and take away,  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
"Lord, blessed be Your name"

"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with You!

**People: And also with you!**

Pastor: We pray.

**People: O Lord, we thank you for being the One who delivers people. Give us a heart that cherishes Your deliverance of us. Let us cling to your rescuing arms so tightly that You may define our whole being. Now that you have brought us back to you, may we never want to be anywhere else, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

#### **First Reading Acts 5:29-42    *The apostles preach boldly in the face of opposition.***

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 Jesus as the Christ.

#### **Epistle 1 Peter 1:3-9    *Rejoice in your faith as it is tested.***

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.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL** *John 20:19-31 Thomas needed to see Jesus to believe.*

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.

**SERMON HYMN**

**"Here I Am, Lord"**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

## **SERMON**

### **"Thomas' Transformation"**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**People:** 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.**

## **OFFERING**

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—ourselves, 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:

**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy.

**People:** 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.  
*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.  
*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.*

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.  
*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.*

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POST-SERVICE MUSIC**