

Sunday, April 8, 2018
Second Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

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

P *Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet.*

C **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

P *We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:
for water from our tap, for rain and snow.*

C **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

P *We give you thanks for your salvation through water:
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.*

C **We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

P *We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,
and for all who gather here;
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.*

C **We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

P *We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,*

*for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.
We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.*

☞ Amen!

***WELCOMING SONG “We Are Marching in the Light of God”**

ELW 866

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

**We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .**

***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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This Is the Feast”**

pg. 140

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ *Almighty God,*

☞ **with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reflection

How does Luke (the author of Acts) describe the spiritual life of the early Christian community? (verse 32) How does he describe the economic life of that community? (verses 32, 34-35) What do you think the relationship is between spirituality or faith and economics? This whole way of life is described as a result of the resurrection faith. How does Luke account for it? (verse 33) Have you ever thought about how what you believe about the/your economy and your finances are related to your faith in Jesus Christ? How does your faith affect how you live with your money? (I'm certainly not talking about just what you give to the church!) In what ways might the daily life of the first Christian community be a model for us?

PSALM 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Reflection

This psalm about the unity of God's people is called "an instructional psalm." Verse 1 reminds me of Philippians 2:1-5, and certainly Acts 4:32. What is the unity that we have with all our sisters and brothers in Christ? How does the psalmist describe it? (verse 2) The notes in the Lutheran Bible remind us that a way of showing hospitality and welcome in Israel was by anointing their head with oil (as in Psalm 23:5). Anointing the head of a priest like Aaron was to set that person aside as one who blesses others. What is the significance of dew "flowing down upon the hills of Zion" in a desert climate? How does the psalmist name the blessing that comes from the Lord? (verse 3)

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reflection

What has been revealed "from the beginning"? (verses 1-4) How can the writer of 1 John reveal this? (verse 1) Notice "heard," "seen," "touched." Is this academic knowledge or experience knowledge? What is the result of this testimony? (verses 3-4) How do we know the difference between what is a lie and what is truth? (verse 6) In the same way, how do we know that someone is speaking in faith from what they know of God? (verse 5) How will we know if we are walking in the light of Jesus? (verse 7) What is the result for us of walking in the light of Jesus? (verses 8-9) Does being in this fellowship with one another in the light of Christ mean that we will never sin? (verse 10) What happens when we do sin? (2:1-2) Do you sense a

theme here in the lectionary? Where does our unity/fellowship/kindredship in Christ come from? In what ways do we live in this unity/fellowship in our community? Certainly not in our opinions, likes, dislikes.... How are we united in Christ?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

L *With a voice of singing*
declare ye this, and let it be heard,
Alleluia.

G *With a voice of singing*
declare ye this, and let it be heard,
Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

John 20:1-18

The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen 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

Reflection

What happens on Easter evening? (verse 19) What does Jesus say? Do you think the disciples might have been afraid? How does Jesus show them it is he himself? (verse 20) He has a job for them. What is that work? (verse 21) How does he expect them to do what he has commanded? (verses 22-23) What does the resurrection of Jesus have to do with the forgiveness of sins? Thomas was missing from that first gathering. How does he respond to the other disciples talking about Jesus' appearance among them? (verses 24-25) How does Jesus appear to Thomas? (verses 26-27) What is Thomas's response? (verse 28) Thomas is one of my heroes in the Bible. He asks questions! And when he sees Jesus, his response (verse 28) is the climax of John's gospel. Why was John's gospel written? (verses 30-31) For some people, the Bible is a moral guidebook. (I'm not sure they have read it!) What is it for the community of faith? (verse 31) This passage is a suggestion about how to read the Bible—not so much as a guide for living, but as a way of a life of faith. What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

SERMON

"Emptied for Faith"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Refrain

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now *Refrain*

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine *Refrain*

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me *Refrain*

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to His name *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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!

***PRAYER SONG**

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him,
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen;
open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick *especially Dorothy, Sharon, Floreen, Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn. Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power
And His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises
and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Be known to us, O Lord,*

G **in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.
Amen!**

*DIALOGUE

- 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.**

*PREFACE

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God of hosts.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:*

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

- ☒ Christ has died.**
- Christ is risen.**
- Christ will come again.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

☐ *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

- ☒ 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!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

☐ *Now let us feast on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!*

***BLESSING**

☐ *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.*

☒ Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☐ *Life-giving God,*

- ☒ in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth
as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.*

*Almighty God, Father, \mp Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"Because He Lives"

**God sent His Son they called Him Jesus
He came to love heal and forgive
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove
My Savior lives**

Refrain

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives**

**How sweet to hold our newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because Christ lives *Refrain***

***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God!**