

John 20:31, NRSV

HOLY
BIBLE

These are written so that you may ...
BELIEVE
... that through believing you may have life ...



**“Blessed are Those Who Have not
Seen, and Yet Have Believed!”**

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Christian Education: 11:00 am

OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

James N. Proeber, Pastor
Wisconsin Synod

Welcome to Our Redeemer

The account of Thomas is one to which we can relate. There are times when we demand hard evidence to be confident of the Lord's promise. Yet, the Lord has already given us what we need. In the Gospels—the account of his life, death and resurrection—we have everything we need for our rescue. We also have everything we need to sustain us in times of doubt and fear.

For Parents with Small Children

There are children's activity folders available in the basket by the front door. Please pick one up, if needed. There are restrooms and a video monitor in the fellowship hall. As you leave the church, go through the double doors.

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn

“The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done”
Christian Worship 148

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won;

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst,
And Jesus has his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Alleluia!

On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain! Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let songs of praise his triumph. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,
From death's sting free your servants, too,
That we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God Places His Name on Us

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

C: And also with you!

The Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

The Proclamation of Forgiveness

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen!

Song of Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e—



ter — nal; it stands firm in the heav —



ens. Your faith — ful — ness con — tin — ues for -



ev — er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless — ed are they who take ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O living Lord and risen Savior, you have conquered death and the grave. You have triumphed over the devil and his temptations. You have given us the confidence of a new life now, and a blessed life for all eternity. Give us an unshakable faith that never doubts or gives into fear. Strengthen our trust in your Word which always stands true. While we are painfully aware the devil will continue to assail us with his deceptions, protect us and help us overcome each of them with the power of your resurrection. Fill our hearts and minds with an unshakable confidence until we stand before you in heaven. There we will praise you for your life, death and resurrection. There we will praise you together with your Father and the Holy Spirit—for all you have done for our rescue, our courage, and our unwavering conviction.



C: A ——— men.

The Lessons from God's Word

"Stop Giving into Your Fears! Jesus Lives!"

The Power of the Resurrection

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

²²"Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. ²³This man, who was handed over by God's set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. ²⁴He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

²⁵"Indeed, David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon my life to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

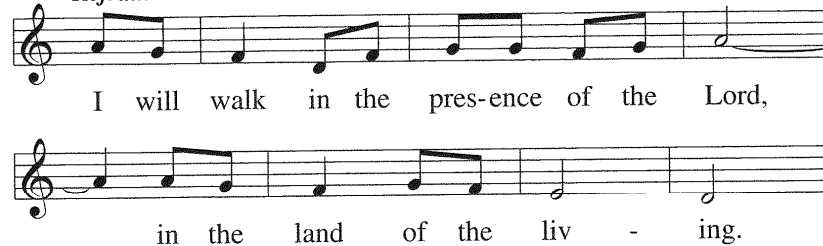
²⁹“Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay.

³²“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 16

Refrain



Psalm tone



Keep me | safe, O God, *
for in you I take | refuge.

I said to the LORD, “You | are my Lord; *
apart from you I have | no good thing.”

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me, *
because he is at my right hand, I will not be | shaken.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue re- | joices; *
my body also will | rest secure,

Because you will not abandon me | to the grave, *
nor will you let your Holy One | see decay.

You have made known to me the | path of life; *
you will fill me with joy in your | presence.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, *
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

⁶Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

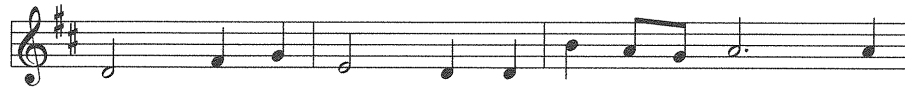
Verse of the Day

P: My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Verse of Praise



C: Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia!



These words are writ — ten that we may be—lieve that



Je—sus is the Christ, the Son — of God.



Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia! Al—le—lu—ia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever

you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

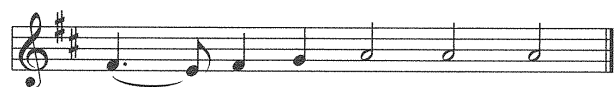
²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Word of our God and the promise of our Risen and Victorious Savior, Jesus Christ!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

Christian Worship 165 st. 1-4

O sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On that first morning of the week,
Before the day began to break,
The Marys went their Lord to seek.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

An angel bade their sorrow flee,
For thus he spoke unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

That night th’ apostles met in fear;
Among them came their Lord most dear
And said, “Peace be unto you here.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon

John 20:24-31

Theme

“Never Afraid!”

Because of a Victorious Savior
Because of an Unshakable Faith

The Confession of Faith

(we unite in the words of the Apostles’ Creed)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated**

**at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come 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.**

Prayer, Praise and Thanks!

Prayer for the Lord's Blessing
Special prayers and requests

The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”
Christian Worship 165 st. 5-8

When Thomas afterwards had heard
That Jesus had fulfilled his word,
He doubted that it was the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

“Thomas, behold my side,” said he,
“My hands, my feet, my body see;
And doubt not, but believe in me.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God,” he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are they that have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been;
In life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days
To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Closing Litany

Selected verses of Psalm 116

P: O gracious and Triune God, we rejoice to know you and the countless blessings you have prepared for us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ—blessings that bring peace and rest to our souls.

C: ⁷Return, my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has accomplished his purpose for you. ⁸Indeed, you have delivered my soul from death, my eye from weeping, my foot from stumbling.

P: When we compare all you do to what the world promises, we realize there is no comparison. Accept our thanks, praise, and loving gratitude for every grace and blessing which comes through your precious Word.

C: ¹²How can I repay the LORD for all his benefits to me? ¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation, and I will call on the name of the LORD.

P: Strengthen our faith, overcome our doubts and fears, keep us on the way that leads to eternal life. Let all our words, actions and thoughts glorify you. Let us always find joy in being your redeemed saints. Lead us to rely on your undeserved love and compassion which abounds in Christ Jesus.

C: ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous, and our God is compassionate. ⁶ The LORD protects those with a child-like faith. In my weakness he saves me too.

P: How blessed are those whose confidence is in you, who listen to your voice. Give us the confidence to always keep our eyes firmly fixed on you, the author and perfecter of our salvation—because you are the only true God, who lives and rules with the Father and the Spirit—from eternity to all eternity.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and
give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A ——— men.

Closing Hymn “These Things Did Thomas Count as Real”
To the Tune of “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”
Christian Worship (2021)

These things did Thomas count as real;
The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his skeptic mind
Was keen enough to make him blind
To any un - ex - pect - ed act
Too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied
That one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like braille
The markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe
And thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw imprinted palms reached out
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in the name of our ever faithful and ever loving Savior.* May the undeserved love received through Jesus, the living Savior, lead you to a life of joyful confidence and loving faithfulness. If you are visiting this morning, please sign either a guest card or the guest book. Come back and worship with us again, soon!

- Following the worship service we will have our Quarterly Congregational meeting. We want to review the blessings of the first quarter and look ahead to the opportunities we want to seize during the second one. Everyone is invited to stay.

Tuesday—Outreach Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm. We will review the Easter Festival and the events of Easter Sunday. We will also make plans for the next quarter. All are welcome to come and help in the planning!

Wednesday—Bible Class will begin on May 10th with a study on the Holy Spirit. We know him as the third person of the Trinity, but do we know everything we need to know about him and the precious work he accomplishes through the Gospel. Come and learn more our promised Comforter and Counselor.

Thursday—Handbell practice begins at 7:00 pm. The choir will prepare for Ascension and Trinity.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Clean: Scheffler

- Lawn beginning April 23rd—J. Schueler

Sunday, April 23rd—Sunday Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am. When we think of Peter’s sermon and his response to those who asked, “What should we do?” we need to have the right answer. What Peter commended to them was not “salvation by works,” but relying on the salvation worked by Jesus.

- Christian Education will follow the service and will review the events of Easter Sunday afternoon when Jesus encountered the Emmaus disciples.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Jim Everson and Josh Schueler for controlling the audio and video portions of the live stream; and to those who provided Easter lilies for our Easter festival service last Sunday.

Acknowledgements

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