



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
11 April 2021

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we immerse ourselves 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.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C. **Amen.**

P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Loving God,
C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against you in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. **Amen.**

P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.

C. **Amen.**

GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast of Victory for Our God

Pastor:



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

Congregation:



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. 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.
- C. Amen

+ WORD +

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.

Now 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 133

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

²It 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.

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.

We 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.

The Word of the Lord. C. **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 20:19–31

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.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.” 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.
C. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

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-belief; and
4 That, 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
realms of clear-er light we may 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:
as you are, with full and end-less sight.

✠ The Rite of Holy Baptism ✠

P. In holy baptism ... and obedience to the will of God.

PRESENTATION

We present Barrett Thomas for the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

- P. Ethan and McKenzie, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized?
- R. We do.
- P. As you present Barrett Thomas for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people, to bring him to the services of God's house to hear and see the word of God and partake in the holy supper, to teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, to place in his hands the holy scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, to nurture him in faith and prayer so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace among all people.

Ethan and McKenzie, do you promise to help Barrett Thomas grow in the Christian faith and life?

R. We do.

P. Denver, Shane, Morgan and Gavin, do you promise to nurture Barrett Thomas in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R. We do.

P. People of God, do you promise to support Barrett Thomas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C. We do.

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL

The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors:

P. I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

P. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R. I renounce **them**.

P. Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R. I renounce **them**.

P. Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R. I renounce **them**.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

C. I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and 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.

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C. 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.

THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. Holy God ... all living things.

C. Blessed be God now and forever.

P. By the waters of the flood ... the freedom of the promised land.

C. Blessed be God now and forever.

P. In the waters of the Jordan ... and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Blessed be God now and forever.

P. Pour out Your Holy Spirit ... the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen.

BAPTISM

P. Barrett Thomas, you are baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

RESPONSORY SONG:

All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation;
Through Christ's redemption they will stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band Of every tribe and nation.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P. Let us pray. We give You thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit You give Your sons and daughters new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Barrett Thomas with the gift of Your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your presence, both now and forever. C. Amen.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

P. Barrett Thomas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF A CANDLE

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

PRESENTATION OF THE FAITH CHEST

WELCOME

Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C. We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The Peace is shared with the newly baptized, his family and one another.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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,

C. 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,

C. 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,

C. hear our prayer.

Holy God, You bring peace to a hurting world. Grant the well-being of Your peace to all who suffer. Visit all who are ill, especially those suffering from Covid-19, those without access to the vaccines, and those with strained medical resources. Comfort with Your merciful presence those who are distanced from family and friends and all who are lonely or distressed. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen,

Carol, Sylvia and Jim, Norma, and Brad. We pray also for those struggling with the virus and for all those grieving the death of a loved one. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. 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,

C. 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,

C. 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.

C. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You 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 Lord. Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy, living and loving God ... gave His life for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Breathe Your Spirit, ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection You send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish Your people. Send us forth as witnesses of Your Son's resurrection, that we may show Your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
C. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P. May the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*



1. Come you faith - ful raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst His pris - on,
3. For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
4. A - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King, im - or - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness
And from three day's sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
His deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hum - an know - ing.
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha - roh's bit - ter yolk Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark is fly - ing
Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Let them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold Him as a mor - tal.
God has brought His Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

DISMISSAL

P. Christ is Risen!

C. He is Risen indeed!

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

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God **Presiding:** Pastor Munter
Organist: Terry Dybsetter **Reader:**
Camera: Josh Sumption **Projection:** James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

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Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal
Brad Danielson, Norma Dovre

April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday

General: \$145.00 Lent Offering.

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday

General: \$2,869.50 (\$779.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$875.00 Easter Offering. \$1,000.00 from Hennes Lutheran Church.



Today we welcome Barrett Thomas Kack into the family of God. Barrett is the son of Ethan & McKenzie Kack. Barrett's sponsors are Denver Noyes, Shane Noyes, Morgan Noyes and Gavin Noyes. We joyfully receive Barrett Thomas into our community and accept our responsibilities in nurturing his life of faith.