



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Bethel Lutheran Church
April 19, 2020

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

✠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 and self-examination.

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*

P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb Who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in You and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22–32

After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the people: ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised Him up, having freed Him from death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let Your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of gladness with your presence.’
²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died
and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew
that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would put one of his descendants on his
throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did His flesh experience corruption.’
³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

In Your presence there is fullness of joy.

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

**²All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**⁴Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods up on my lips.**

⁵O LORD, You are my portion and my cup;
it is You who uphold my lot.

**⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷I will bless the LORD Who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

**⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not fall.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**¹⁰For You will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let Your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in Your right hand are pleasures for evermore

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3–9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy halls of death Christ, the Conqueror, has gone,
Bright forerunner to the skies of His people, yet to rise.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19–31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

C. (spoken) 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.” ²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” ²² When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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.”

²⁶ A 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.” ²⁷ Then 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered Him, “My Lord

and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! Praise Him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise Him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav’nly birth.
Praise the victor King, Whose sway sin and death and hell obey.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*



1. Come, ye faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness;



God hath brought forth Is-ra-el In - to joy from sad-ness;



Loosed from Phar-a-oh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters;



Led them, with un moistened foot, Through the Red Sea wa-ters.

2. Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold You as a mortal:

 but today, among Your own, You appear, bestowing
Your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

3. Alleluia! Now we cry to our Lord immortal,
Who triumphant burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia! With the Son God the Father praising;
Alleluia! Yet again to the Spirit raising.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY *He Is Arisen, Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus rose triumphantly,
and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious,
life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Praying together in our homes, gathered together by the Holy Spirit and uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, Your Holy Spirit draws us together in one baptism and one faith to serve one Lord. Enter into our countless separate houses with Your gift of peace. As Christians

around the globe are united in their suffering through the coronavirus, so unite us also in the hope of life in the Risen Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, we pray for the earth that You have given into our care. As human society is quieted by sickness, give Your plants and animals, lands and seas, a time to renew and replenish themselves. Nurture the fields that will supply our food. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations, O God. Give peace to our troubled world. Bless the efforts of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Strengthen democracies. Bring an end to violence between nations, across borders, within countries, and inside homes. Uphold the governors of our land, especially Gov. Walz. Bless our country with integrity in government, attention to the needy, persistence in facing the pandemic, and wisdom in proceeding into an unknown future. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all in any need, O God. Comfort the bereaved. Accompany the sick, especially the multitude who have contracted the coronavirus, and those we remember in our hearts, especially Bea, Merv, Emily, Dick, Angie, Shirley, and Lynette. Visit the homes of all who are isolated, and hold the lonely and fearful in your arms. Grant your peace to the millions of unemployed; give them food for today and hope for tomorrow. Help us find a home for refugees. Support medical care workers in their endless tasks of attending to the pandemic patients. Provide needed medical supplies for hospitals. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for children and youth. Shelter them from all sickness. Keep homebound children safe from hunger and abuse. Nurture teenagers with a vision of life beyond this pandemic. Give them assurance as they are separated physically from friends and mentors. Give to all children and youth forbearance beyond their years and renew our spirits with the living hope of Christ's resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comforting God, You raised Your Son so we might have eternal life. We praise You for the witness of the faithful who have died (*especially those who have died recently of coronavirus*). Sustained by the promise of healing and resurrection, free us from the fear of death, and bring us at our end with all the saints into the joy of Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With confidence in Your love, Almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into Your eternal care. With heaven and earth and all creation, we rejoice in the name of the One Who conquered death to give us eternal life and joy, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>



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