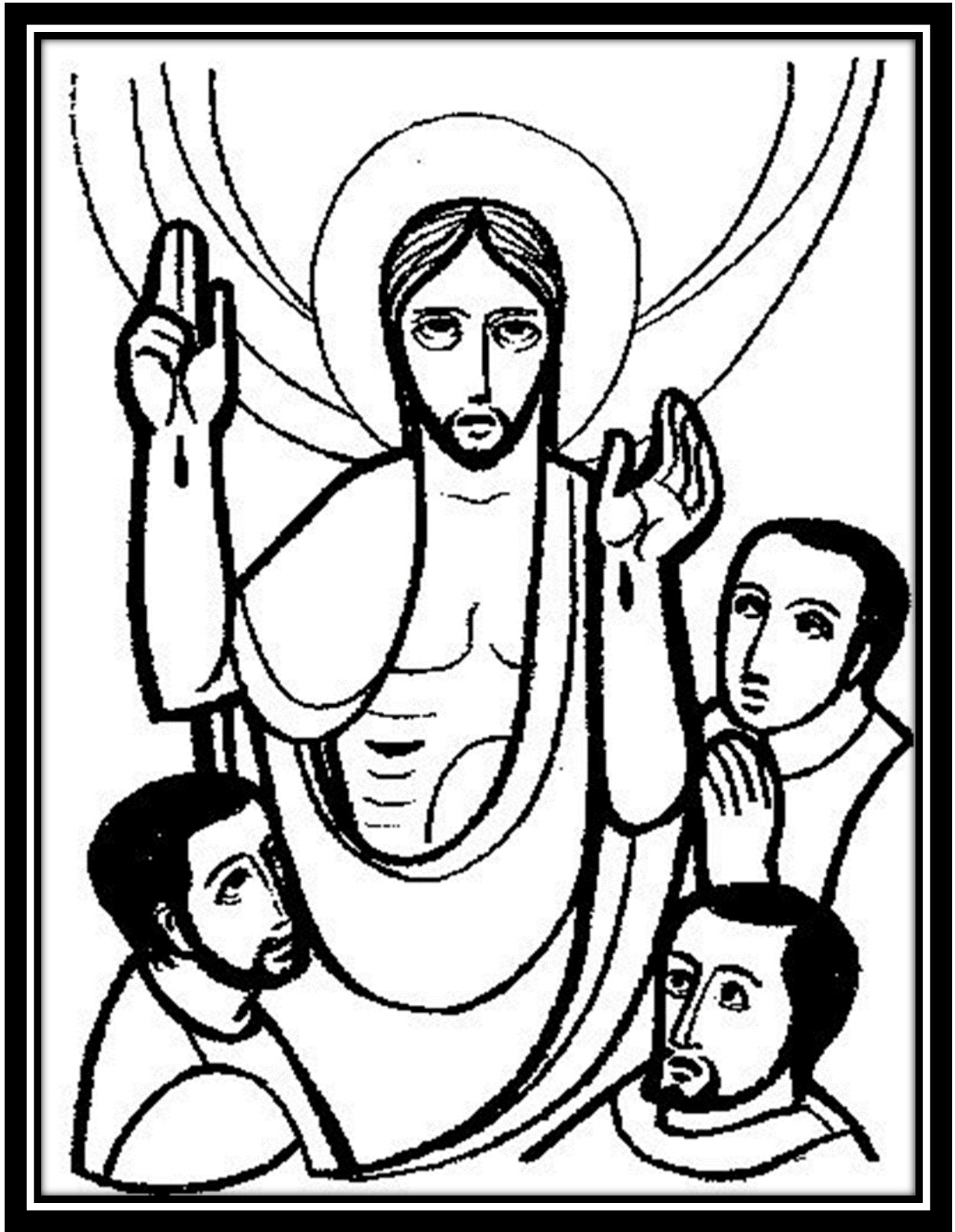


Our Savior Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023

Thought: Is seeing believing? Or is believing seeing? Thomas was not present when Jesus first appeared and seemed to need to “see” in order to believe. Even so, the other disciples also had opportunity to “see” before believing. The Risen Christ offered peace not as the world gives, but to go and share the Good News with others. Jesus says: “Do not doubt but believe.” Do we “see” in a world where Jesus comes in community and by the Spirits guiding? Believing is seeing!

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: Good friend Thomas, may we have the courage to be as honest as you.

C: Good friend Thomas, may our questions, like yours, be recast by love’s encounter.

A: You remind us that “understanding seeking faith” is rewarded.

C: And that “faith seeking understanding” is the journey’s next step.

A: Believing and seeing, come let us worship our Risen Lord.

Gathering Hymn – “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”
ELW #384

<https://youtu.be/5mdwBPW2r7c>
by The Tabernacle Choir

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you!

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Easter Hymn of Praise – “Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW #379

<https://youtu.be/g-5Bi2jM40E>

by Laura Wright

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt,

C: 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. Amen.

The Word

First reading – Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 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;’²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.²⁸You 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. ³⁰Since 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. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’³²This 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

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²**All my delight is in 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.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

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

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

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

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

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

¹⁰**For 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 forevermore.

Second reading – 1 Peter 1:3-9

New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

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.**

Holy Gospel – John 20:19-31

https://youtu.be/uVXI2X_CZko

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O 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 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.

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

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/qPlahNLwNYs>

Homily – “Believing is Seeing”

<https://youtu.be/jFXYXL1h7tg>

Hymn of the Day - “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW #389

<https://youtu.be/7Rgr3E6dxlg>

by James Biery

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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for
the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings
refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb,
empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words
and our work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains.

A: Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders (*especially*). Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships for all ages, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love (*especially*). Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Offering and Offertory Hymn:

"Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"

ELW #663

(Offering plate brought forward)

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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...

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

“Now We Join in Celebration” ELW #462

<https://youtu.be/sHFDrWPCXrE>

by Grace Lutheran Church

Consecration

The 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

Communion Music

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.

C: With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction – from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “This Joyful Eastertide” ELW #391

https://youtu.be/XPR_UqjCnfw
by Kings College Choir

Dismissal

A: We have come to believe that Christ is Risen!

C: In this faith, we go to serve!

Postlude – Jill Rimington

