



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!'"

~ John 20: 27-28

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2017

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Easter – April 23, 2017

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.

Today we commemorate Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960. Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

PRELUDE: *We Walk by Faith* – James Biery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #384: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



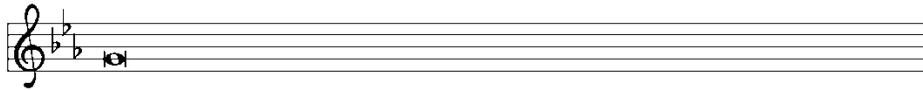
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



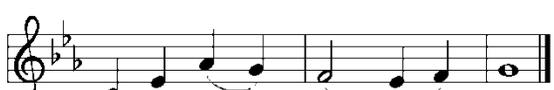
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



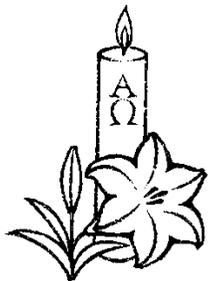
Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

^{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.’

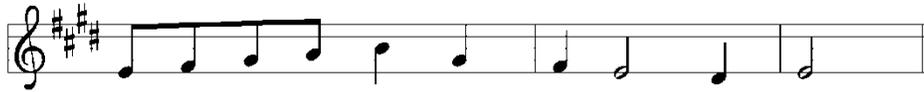
³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it.
Verses are sung responsively; the congregation sings the **bold** verses.*



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

- ¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”
- ²**All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong 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 up- | on my lips.** **R**
- ⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold 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 al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.** **R**
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it 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 for- | evermore. **R**

SECOND READING: 1Peter 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

The cantor sings the alleluias, and all repeat them.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verse (Cantor): Blessed are those who | have not seen
and yet have come | to believe. (*John 20:29*)

***GOSPEL READING: 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.

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'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

1. These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
2. The vi - sion of his skep - tic mind was keen e - nough to make him blind
3. His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied That one could live when one had died,
4. May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the ris - en Christ re - ceive,

the grain of wood, the heft of stone, the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.
to an - y un - ex - pect - ed act too large for his small world of fact.
Un - til his fin - gers read like Braille The mark - ings of the spear and nail.
whose raw, im - print - ed palms reached out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement. Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, and heal the sick, especially Jim, Dan, Denise, Sally, Bill, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially Kathryn Davidson and Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society. Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #646: *The Peace of the Lord

All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have 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 Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

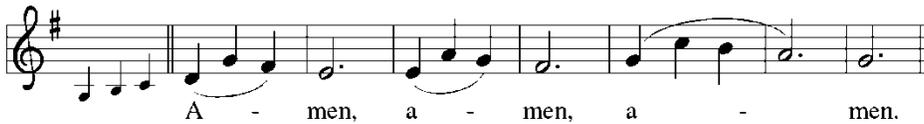
With this bread and cup
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us.
 Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever.



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

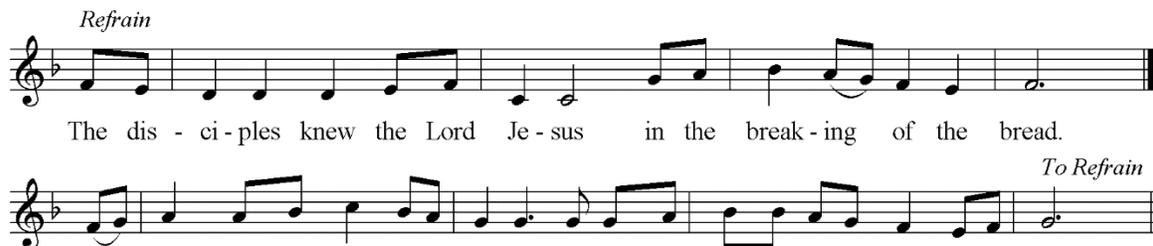
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The table of life is spread before you.
 Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
 The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*



1. The bread which we break, al-le - lu - ia, is the com - mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ.
2. One bod - y are we, al-le - lu - ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

COMMUNION HYMN #379: *Now the Green Blade Rises*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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 to your Son's resurrection,

that we may show your glory to all the world,

Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

Amen.

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life,

make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *We Walk by Faith

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gra-cious words draw near,
 2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor fol - low where you trod;
 3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and may our faith a - bound
 4. For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are found in means di - vine:
 5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clear - er light

O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 but in your prom - ise we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.
 be - neath the wa - ter and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 may we be - hold you as you are, with full and end - less sight.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Now the Green Blade Rises* – Aaron David Miller

The flowers this week are given by Marlene & Clarence Strabel for the glory of God.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Clarence Strabel
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: George & Jan Leikauf
Attendance Last Week: 113
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,185.02
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 47,775.27
YTD Actual Expense: \$ 49,619.68

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Carolyn Jarrett
Attendance Last Year: 50
Last Week's General Giving: \$ 4,007.65
Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 599.69
YTD Receipts: \$ 52,672.53

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