



**8:30 Traditional Worship**  
**Sunday, April 16, 2023**  
**Second Sunday Easter, Year A**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**



**Theme of the Day**

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 Hymn**

ELW #367    Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

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.**

## **Canticle of Praise**

ELW p. 140    *“This is the feast of victory for our God”*

## **Apostolic Greeting**

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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

## First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes 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.*

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“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—<sup>23</sup>this 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. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For 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;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

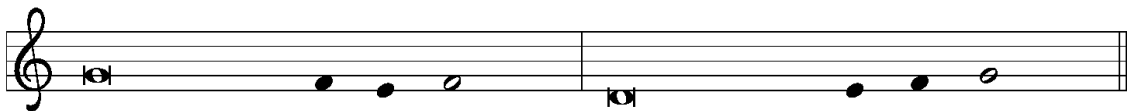
<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“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. <sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

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

## Psalm 16



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<sup>1</sup>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.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,**

**upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after | other gods  
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,  
never take their names up- | on my lips. R**

<sup>5</sup>O Lord, you are my portion | and my cup;  
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night | after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. R**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
my body also shall | rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You 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: 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 amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed 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, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW #169     Alleluia

vs. Blessed are those who | have not seen\* and yet have come | to believe.

## **Gospel: John 20:19-31**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

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

<sup>26</sup>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.” <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>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.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children’s Message**

**Sermon: “Do Not Doubt, But Believe” – Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

## **Hymn of the Day**

ELW #635     We Walk by Faith

## 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

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

*A brief silence.*

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.

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

**Your mercy is great.**

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our congregation's leaders, especially the Council, the heads of teams, and the Call Committee. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, so that their leadership reflects your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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 surgery (*especially Susie Glass, Christen Morrison, Anne Weller*), or grief (*especially Mike Cooper and his family*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you met the disciples right where there were, 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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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 Meribeth Cooper*). Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Offertory**

Organ Solo

## **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Dialogue

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.**

## Preface

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:

## Holy

ELW p. 144

## Great Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.  
By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## **Lamb of God**

ELW p. 112

## **Communion Hymn**

ELW #494    For the Bread Which You Have Broken

## **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

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

The God of all,  
who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

ELW #385    Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**