

**St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

**April 11, 2021**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

**Introduction for the Day:** The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play 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 wonderful 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*

*(Please be seated)*

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Opening Hymn

**#369 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!**

Please meditate on the hymn as it is being played.

*Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia. Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia.*

*Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia. At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia.*

*For the sheep the lamb has bled, Alleluia. Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia.*

*Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia. Now he lives no more to die. Alleluia.*

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neal, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: O Filii et Filiae. 888 with Alleluias.

Music: French tune, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Opening Litany for the Second Sunday of Easter and Apostolic Greeting

The Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Thomas touched Jesus' hands and side, he became a believer.

**Help us to believe in your resurrection.**

Through the words in Scripture, generations of people came to know Jesus as their Savior.

**Help us to believe that you know each of us.**

Through the words of faithful people, many have believed the messages of Christ.

**Give us the strength to share with those who have yet to believe.**

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

**Amen.**

## Word

*(Please be seated)*

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 fellow believers who were in need.*

A reading from Acts, Chapter 4.

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 133, Read Responsively

*How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 133.

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

It 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.It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has  
commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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.*A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John, Chapters 1 and 2.

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—this 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— we 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. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This 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. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but 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. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is

faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

**#386 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing  
[Stanzas 4 & 5]**

Please meditate on the hymn as it is being played.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*That night the apostles met in fear; among them came their master dear, and said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia*

*When Thomas first the tidings heard, that they had seen the risen Lord, he doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neal, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: O Filii et Filiae. 888 with Alleluias. Music: French tune, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Gospel

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.*

The Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

The holy gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

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

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.” 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.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 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.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

**Praise to you, O risen Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

**#386 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**

**[Stanzas 7 & 8]**

Please meditate on the hymn as it is being played.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia!*

*How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been, for they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

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*(Please stand as you are able)*

Profession of Faith

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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

...We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### The Peace of Christ

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled." The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### Meal

#### Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Your son made himself known, O Father, proclaiming, by his very presence, your resurrection power. We offer these gifts, proclaiming, by their very presence, our love and praise. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The 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**

## Eucharistic Prayer

## 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

*(Please be seated)*