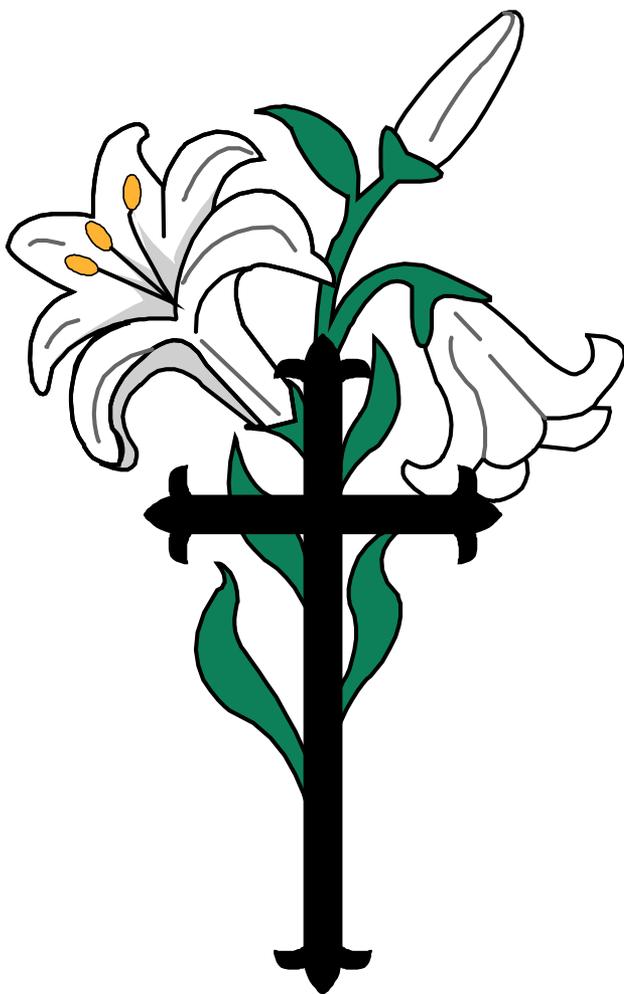


The Second Sunday of Easter



Prelude

Entrance Hymn

390

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
**unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.***

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
**whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.***

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
**reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.***

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with those oppressed in this and every land,
**till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.***

Easter Greeting

P: Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed!

P: Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed!

P: Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.**

*P: The grace of our victorious and risen Lord, the love our God
who raised him and the communion of the Holy Spirit which
he gives to us be with you all.*

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious Father, those who saw Jesus risen from the dead testified to the truth that He is the Savior you had promised. Let their witness and testimony come to us now with the power of your Spirit, that we who have not seen may yet believe. We ask this in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Lesson

Acts 4:31-35

When *the gathering* had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. 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.

Psalm

Psalm 133

Hymn 649 Behold, How Pleasant

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

1 How pleasant and harmonious

**when God's people are together:
fragrant as precious oil when
running fresh on Aaron's beard.**

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

**2 How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
refreshing as the dew
upon the mountain of the Lord.**

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

**3 How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
there the Lord God bestows a blessing--
life forevermore.**

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

Second Lesson

1John 1:1-2:2

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.

Verse

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!

P: Spread the Good News over all the earth!

C: Jesus has died and is risen!

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

In the evening on that day, the one after the Sabbath, when the doors were locked where the disciples were on account of the fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and saying, "Peace to you."

And having said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced, having seen the Lord.

Then he said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And having said this, he breathed into them, saying to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you let go of the sins of any, they have been let go of them; if you seize them, they have been seized."

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

So the other disciples kept telling 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 never believe."

And after eight days the disciples were again together, and Thomas with was with them.

Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and cast it in my side and stop disbelieving! Rather, start believing!"

Thomas answered him and he said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who do not see and still believe."

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

These Things Did Thomas Count

These things did Thomas count as real:

the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his skeptic mind

was keen enough to make him blind
To any unexpected act
too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied

**that one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.**

*May we, O God, by grace believe
and thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw, imprinted palms reached out
and beckoned Thomas 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.**

Offering
Offertory

864

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
joyfully your tribute bring.*

**Ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praises everlasting ring!**

*God be praised, for grace and favor
to our forebears in distress.*

**God be praised, the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious is God's faithfulness!**

*Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;*

**but, as mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the great Eternal One!**

*Angels sing in adoration,
in God's presence, face to face.*

**Sun and moon and all creation,
all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

The Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Dismissal

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*