

**Order of Service**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
April 19, 2020

***"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."***

Opening Hymn: ELH 351 vs. 1-3, 8

*"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"*

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave,  
He lives eternally to save,  
He lives all glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
O the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

[ P = Pastor C = Congregation ]

## Invocation:

P: We worship the Triune God of the Scriptures who has given us living hope in our risen Savior Jesus Christ — one God, yet the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

## Confession and Absolution:

P: Let us come before the Lord and confess our sins:

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful. I have disobeyed you and justly deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for the evil I have thought, spoken, and done, and for the sake of my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of the Word and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: (spoken) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

## Prayer for the Day

P: O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence. We ask for this through

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

(Filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter boldly addresses the people of Jerusalem and proclaims the resurrection of Jesus. The passion, the death, and *resurrection are not chance history but occurred “by God’s set plan and foreknowledge” in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Christ’s resurrection is sure. God’s Word is sure. Our faith is sure.*)

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man, who was handed over by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. <sup>24</sup> He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

<sup>25</sup> “Indeed, David says concerning him: I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon my life to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life. You will fill me with joy in your presence.

<sup>29</sup> “Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch 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 and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants<sup>[f]</sup> on his throne, <sup>31</sup> he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay. <sup>32</sup> This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all

witnesses of that.” (EHV)

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 16 v. 7-11

P: I will bless the Lord, who guides me. Even at night my heart instructs me.

C: I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

P: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices. Even my flesh will dwell securely

C: because you will not abandon my life to the grave.

P: You will not let your favored one see decay.

All: You have made known to me the path of life, fullness of joy in your presence, pleasures at your right hand forever.

Congregational Response: ELH 352 vs. 2

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

(The resurrection of Christ gives us new birth into a living hope. Although Jesus is not visible to our eyesight, faith fills us with joy and confidence in him. Our faith is precious, for by it God leads us through trials and suffering in this life to our heavenly goal.)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he

gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. <sup>5</sup> Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

<sup>6</sup> Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials <sup>7</sup> so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (EHV)

#### The Gospel Lesson: John 20: 19-31

(John records the Easter evening appearance of the risen Lord to the disciples in Jerusalem. Jesus bids them peace and confers on them the power of the keys. But Thomas was absent from the scene. *When told of the Lord's appearance, Thomas expressed skepticism and refusal to believe without "proof."* Graciously, Jesus again appears a week later, and Thomas is present. The Lord recalls his disciple *to faith but says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*)

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." <sup>22</sup> After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup> After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (EHV)

### The Confession of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

## Children's Sermonette

Hymn: ELH 364 vs. 1, 6 (Tune CW 405)

*"O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink"*

O for a faith that will not shrink,  
Though pressed by many a foe,  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of any earthly woe.

Lord, give us such a faith as this,

**And then, whate'er may come,**

**We'll taste even here the hallowed bliss**

Of an eternal home.

Sermon: John 20:28-29

*"Believe and See!"*

<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (EHV)

Hymn: ELH 353 v. 1 & 3 (Tune CW 145) *"Jesus Lives!"*

Jesus lives! The victory's won!  
Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!  
From the grave He will recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence;  
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,  
Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide,  
Praise to Him and glory giving.  
Freely God doth aid dispense;  
This shall be my confidence.

### Offering Prayer

### Prayer of the Church

P: O God of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Your abundant grace,

C: You have begotten us again unto a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

P: You have transformed the night of doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal day of joy and gladness.

C: You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen. For this, O Lord, we give you thanks.

P: You have rescued Your Son, who died for our sins, from the grip of death and raised Him by Your power.

C: That which you sowed in dishonor and weakness, you raised in power and glory.

P: O God, we praise you that through Him you removed death's sting for us.

C: You have brought us victory over the grave.



P: Fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection.

C: Grant to Your Church the power of the resurrected Christ.

P: Help us to show forth your praises.

C: Use our lives in your service. Give us willing hearts to talk about You to people we know.

P: Send the conquering banner of Christ's victory into all the world.

C: Grant that many more nations may join the hosts of heaven in songs of triumph.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring our private petitions to you.

Silent prayer

P: Heal the sick and give courage to the disheartened.

C: We ask this in the name of our risen Lord. 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.

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH 310 vs. 7

*“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

Easter triumph, Easter joy!

This alone can sin destroy;

**From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,**

Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!