

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG EvLW # 366 *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
2. The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has .
dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
3. The three sad days have quickly sped; Christ rises glorious from the
dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!

4. Christ closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high .
portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!

5. Lord, by the stripes that wounded you, from death's sting free your .
servants too, that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118:14-29

The Lord is my strength and my song and has become my salvation.

**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord indeed punished me sorely but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

SECOND READING Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **EvLW # 635** *We Walk by Faith*

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you .
here."
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise, we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

4. For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honour you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

For you alone are the Holy One and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Uphold your children who cry out to you especially Deb, Lloyd, Josh, Jordon, Ferolyn, Elethia, Daryl, and Carol. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

PEACE

HYMN

EvLW # 646 *The Peace of the Lord*

1. The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord the peace of the risen.
Lord Jesus: the peace of the Lord is for you and for me, and also for all of God's children.
The peace of the Lord is for you and for me, and also for all of .
God's children.
2. The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen .
Lord Jesus: the peace of the Lord is among us right now,
so open yourselves to receive it.
The peace of the Lord is among us right now, so open yourselves to receive it.

3. The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus: the peace of the Lord kept within cannot live, so open yourselves now to share it.
The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live, so open yourselves now to share it.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 538 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. *Repeat*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Apr 25	Esther 7:1-10	Revelation 1:9-20	Psalm 122
Tue	Apr 26	Esther 8:1-17	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalm 122
Wed	Apr 27	Esther 9:1-5, 18-23	Luke 12:4-12	Psalm 122
Thu	Apr 28	Isaiah 5:11-17	Revelation 3:14-22	Psalm 30
Fri	Apr 29	Isaiah 6:1-4	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalm 30
Sat	Apr 30	Genesis 18:1-8	Luke 14:12-14	Psalm 30
Sun	May 01	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] John 21:1-19	Revelation 5:11-14	Psalm 30 (11)

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