

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: Easter Makes a Difference

Easter made a difference in the lives of so many people! In the core community of believers, it wasn't a matter of something to believe but how to make a difference in the way a person lived. The other disciples had let Thomas stay with them until Jesus reappeared. It must have been a tense time, but uniquely bearable because they had met their Lord, alive. That change, the difference that Easter made, wasn't limited to the apostles; the entire group shared all they had, living testimony of Jesus' presence with them. How will you be different after hearing this great Good News?

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from Romans 6:9

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: A new food pantry needs sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Please pick one up when you leave today!

READINGS FOR EASTER 3:

- Acts 3:11–21 (Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)
- 1 John 3:1–7 (We are God's children now.)
- Luke 24:36–49 (The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" - Hymn 472
- "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done" - Hymn 464
- "Make Songs of Joy" - Hymn 484



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Sunday
April 7, 2024
Easter 2

Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Opening Hymn

“Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom” - Hymn 481

**Scatter the darkness, break the gloom; Sun, reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows Hope and peace for all tomorrows
Life un eclipsed by doubt an dread; Christ has rise from the dead!**

**Bearing the standard from on high As the Lamb of God to die
He who for us, so cruelly treated Lives again — our foes defeated!
Where is your sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown his strength to save!**

**Banners of triumph, be unfurled! Trumpets, sound throughout the world!
Crying and sighs, give way to singing; Life from death, our Lord is bringing!
Let there begin the jubilee — Christ has gained the victory!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: French; setting: Barry Rose, b. 1934, alt.

Text: © 1995 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House

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Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Confession and Absolution - page 184

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,
C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

 **Kyrie** - page 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn

“He’s Risen, He’s Risen” - Hymn 480

**He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear**

**But short was their triumph; the Savior arose
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, His foes
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**O, where in your sting, death? We fear you no more
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door
For all our transgressions His blood does atone
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.

Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

Music: Public domain

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that our Easter faith not be only a matter of Sunday tradition,

C **but will change how we care for one another and share our joy in active love and service each day;**

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 4:32–35

(Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

L: The First Reading for the 2nd Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 4:

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving 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 were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

(God is light; He forgives our sins.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapters 1 and 2:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And 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 is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he 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 we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say 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. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

“O Sons and Daughters of the King” - Hymn 470 - stanzas 1-5

**O sons and daughters of the King
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing
Today the grace has lost its sting!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**That Easter morn, at break of day
The faithful women went their way
To seek the tome where Jesus lay.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**An angel clad in white they see
Who sits and speaks unto the three
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”**

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, alleluia, alleluia!**

**When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord
He doubted the disciples word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941”


Text and music: Public domain

Holy Gospel Reading

John 20:19–31

(Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter:

 **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

“O Sons and Daughters of the King” - Hymn 470 - stanzas 6-9

**“My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be.”
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, alleluia, 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!**

**On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941”

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

“I Will Never Believe”



Offertory - page 192

**A: Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should always and everywhere thank and praise You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly do we praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord, who not only rose from death but has led the way for us to be with You forever. And so, with all the heavenly host, we raise our voices in thanks, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

A: 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.

The Words of Our Lord - spoken, page 197

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \mp body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini - page 197

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei - page 198

A: **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis - page 198-199

A: **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
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, world without end.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving - page 200

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: and His mercy endureth forever.

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament. We pray that You would strengthen us by it each day to use all that we are and have to the good of others and the praise of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P Bless we the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 **C: Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“This Joyful Eastertide - Hymn 482

**This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen
But now has Christ arisen!**

**Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen
But now has Christ arisen!**

**My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number:
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen
But now has Christ arisen!**

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Tune: *Davids Psalmen*, Amsterdam, 1684; setting: Dale Grotenhuis, 1931–2012, alt.

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Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

: Thanks be to God.