



**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT
SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED”**

*Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:00AM
Worship Service*

AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, “My Lord and my God!”

Sit

OPENING HYMN

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

LSB 464

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
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,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!
- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.
Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Stand

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(1 John 1:6-10)*

P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

C **we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P If we say we have not sinned,

C **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Silence for reflection.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Sit

HYMN of PRAISE

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB 470 sts. 1-3

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

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

3 An angel clad in white they see,
Who sits and speaks unto the three,
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same 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

³²The 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. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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 ³⁵and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 1:1—2:2

¹That 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— ²the 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— ³that 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. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My 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. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹On 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.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had

said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶Eight 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." ²⁷Then 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."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Merciful Father, at Your bidding we come to You in prayer, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested.

Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in You we may know the full comfort of Your gracious presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

P Deliver us from pride and humble us by Your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

- P** Make Your Church bold in the confession of Your name before the world and give Your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Restore those absent too long from the Church's sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need, *[especially . . .]*. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Accept the praise and thanksgiving of our lips, the tithes and offerings we bring, and our labors for Your glory, that we not suffer from ingratitude or the pride that believes all we have is the fruit of our own work. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Remembering blessed Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** Grant to us that we may worthily receive this blessed Sacrament of Your Son's body and blood and may confidently trust that You will both hear and answer the prayers of Your people and supply us with all good things according to Your merciful favor; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB 470 sts. 4-7

- 4 That night the apostles met in fear;
Among them came their master dear
And said, “My peace be with you here.”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples’ word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be.”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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SERMON

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 upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

LSB 470 sts. 8-9

- 8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C Thanks be to God.

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