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Second Sunday of Easter

He Lives...to give me proof and peace

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Risen Savior, bless me through your Word today as I come to you in humility and faith. Fill me with joy in your grace and peace in your promises, that I may praise you today and always. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: We've all heard about "doubting Thomas," who wouldn't believe Jesus had risen until he saw it with his own eyes. In our Gospel lesson today Jesus does not come to rebuke Thomas' weak faith. He comes to strengthen Thomas' faith, giving him the proof he needed. Jesus didn't reject Thomas; He engaged Thomas and gave him peace. Today is a day of great comfort for any follower of Jesus who wrestles with doubt concerning Christ's promises or doubts about God's Word because Jesus still comes to us today in Word and sacrament to speak to us. When we show weakness of faith, he does not reject us. Just as he did with Thomas, Jesus engages us, giving us proof and peace.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Life is full of either/or moments, where you face an unavoidable choice between two alternatives. Some are significant and others are not. One has eternal consequences: Either Jesus is still dead, or he is risen and alive. Jesus said he would prove his victory by rising from the dead. If he is dead, he is a fraud. But if he lives, then he is who he claimed to be—the Messiah. And he did what he came to do—save us. The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered this either/or for us. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Throughout this season, we explore what that means.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Guest Worship Leader: Pastor Jon Enter, St. Croix Lutheran Academy
Piano: Madison Boerner

Order of Worship



HYMN: Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful

CW 448



1 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,
2 From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
3 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad-ness blend,



let all the world keep tri - umph and all that is there - in.
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

Refrain



He is ris - en! He is ris - en! Christ the Lord is



ris - en! Our joy shall have no end.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754

Tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

Remain seated.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SIN

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

(10:30) Sacrament of Baptism

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."*

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:

M: Ruby Grace Karel, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✝ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Ruby as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exhortation to Parents & Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Ruby and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: **Yes, as God gives me strength.**

Hymn: This Is the Feast

CW 938

Refrain

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.' The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody: 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!'. The notes are: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The lyrics are written below the staff.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!



1 ʒ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free _____ to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, _____ bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *v. 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun his _____ reign. _____ Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

In Peter's Pentecost sermon he states that David prophesied that the Messiah would rise from the dead. Then he tells the crowd they are all witness to it.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

²²"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have regardless of the outward circumstances of our life.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas—peace that could only be found in his Lord and God.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

Hymn: O Sons and Daughters of the King

CW 456 sts. 1-2, 4-8



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard that Je - sus



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
 wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."
 had ful - filled his word, he doubt - ed that it was the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he, 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 "my hands, my feet, my body see; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 and doubt not, but believe in me." "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
 and yet whose faith has constant been;
 in life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon

Based on John 20:19-31

"Not Too Good To Be True"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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.

Be seated.

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

(10:30) Handbell Offertory

"The Strife is O'er"

By K. McChesney

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: 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: Amen.

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation

CW 800 sts. 4-5



4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose



my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to its foes;



the flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection Video

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: He lives...to restore my hope

Bible Readings: Acts 2:14a, 32-41; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

Hymns: 938, 452, 519, 512

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

