

## ***Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!***

***Joys:***

***“Daughter Rajeania is up and eating. Improving every week. Thank you to everyone for prayers. Rajeania said the prayers brought her through this. Love, Sharon Wilcox”***



***We welcome Pr. Brady Eggleston this week as our interim pastor!***

***An audio of Pr. Brady’s sermon is included in a separate e-mail.***

***The Nannestads have made YouTube videos of the readings and the hymns in this Worship Service, which may be accessed OSLC’s Facebook Page.***

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Durant, Oklahoma**

**Worshipping in Place in a Time of Pandemic**

**Second Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2020**



*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

**Opening Hymn:**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

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## Invocation

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be among us all, together and apart. Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, RSV

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them,

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will dwell in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades,  
nor let thy Holy One see corruption.

<sup>28</sup> Thou hast made known to me the ways of life;  
thou wilt make me full of gladness with thy presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, <sup>31</sup> he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

Psalm 16. RSV

Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "Thou art my Lord;  
I have no good apart from thee."<sup>[a]</sup>

- <sup>3</sup> As for the saints in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.
- <sup>4</sup> Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;<sup>[b]</sup>  
their libations of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
thou holdest my lot.
- <sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
yea, I have a goodly heritage.
- <sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- <sup>8</sup> I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also dwells secure.
- <sup>10</sup> For thou dost not give me up to Sheol,  
or let thy godly one see the Pit.
- <sup>11</sup> Thou dost show me the path of life;  
in thy presence there is fulness of joy,  
in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

#### I Peter 1:3-9, RSV

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup> though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Without having seen<sup>[b]</sup> him you<sup>[c]</sup> love him; though you do not now see him you<sup>[d]</sup> believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. <sup>9</sup> As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

#### **John 20:19-31, Eggleston's Unauthorized Translation**

At early evening on that first day of the week, the doors having been shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Religious Leadership, Jesus appeared in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you". Saying this, he showed them both his hands and side. Seeing the Lord, the disciples rejoiced. Again, Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I also send you." Saying this, he forcibly exhaled and said to

them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. The sins of whomever you forgive are forgiven them. Those you bind, they are bound.”

But Thomas the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord”. But he replied, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the print of the nails and put my hand into his side, I will never believe!”

Again, after eight days, the disciples were again gathered with the doors shut. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared and stood in the middle and said, “Peace be with you”. Then he said to Thomas, “Bring your finger over here and see my hands, bring your hand over here and put it in my side. Give up your faithlessness and believe.” Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God”. Jesus replied, “Have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who do not see, but yet believe.”

Jesus performed many other signs before the disciples which are not written in this book. These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you might have life in his name.

## Sermon

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia.**

*“I have seen the Lord,”* Mary had proclaimed, and we can be sure the disciples didn’t really believe her... They knew what their eyes had told them to be true...and Mary Magdalene was after all, a histrionic woman with a past...one who’d had a checkered history...from whom Jesus had cast seven demons. They were after all practical men... they were after all realists.

**“Blessed are those who believe but have not seen.”**

That night, the practical and realistic disciples were hiding in fear... as John points out, they were hiding in fear of the Jewish leadership, knowing full well that that which had happened to their beloved Master could very easily happen to them as well... but there was maybe just a little more to that fear,...it may be that they were also just a little afraid of Mary’s histrionic and unlikely report of a Risen Jesus... fearing Jesus’ angry ghost perhaps, come back to haunt them for abandoning him, for denying him in his moment of greatest need... That night, the disciples were hiding in fear, with doors locked shut, when to their amazement, Jesus appeared among them... Despite what they knew to be true...despite their eye-witness certainty... despite all of their practical realistic certainty that Jesus was as dead

as dead can be... here the resurrected Jesus stood among them, displaying his holy wounds, breathing upon them the power of his Holy Spirit, and blessing them with the words, ***“Shalom... Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”***

Thomas the Twin hadn't been there that first night...and when his friends and comrades of the last three years told him ***“We have seen the Lord”***...he scoffed... Thomas scoffed saying, ***“Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”***

Thomas the practical realist knew what he had seen... Jesus had been taken from his friends... Jesus had been mercilessly beaten... Jesus had been crucified... Jesus had suffered horribly... Jesus had died... and Jesus had been buried... His body missing from the tomb only meant that it had been stolen... and rumors of angels and empty tombs and the like were only superstitious wishful thinking...only denial of the obvious.... Thomas the practical realist knew what he had seen his own eyes...and as painful as the reality might be... Thomas the practical realist knew ***that Jesus was as dead as dead can be....and to make his point, Thomas declared...“unless I get tangible proof that I can physically handle, I’m not believing any of this!”***

Well...you know you'd better watch what you pray for...because God might just grant your prayer!

One week later, they are all again gathered together behind closed and locked doors. This time Thomas is there ...Jesus again appears to them, greeting them, ***“Shalom... peace be with you!”*** ... and then Jesus singles out Thomas, the practical realist ...” ***Here I am...Here’s my hands...my feet ...my side...Check them out!”*** To which Thomas, now the formerly practical realist surrenders all disbelief in words which turn out to be the highest Christological confession found in John’s Gospel...Thomas, the now formerly practical realist surrenders all disbelief, responding, ***“My Lord and my God.”*** ***“Have you believed because you have seen me?”*** asks Jesus, ***“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”***

***“Blessed are those who believe but have not seen.”***

Blessed are you and I ... in and of itself, given what we have experienced in our Lenten fast this year... focused as we have been on illness and death... practicing social distancing and with most of our society shut down, even, for the first time in my lifetime, our churches have shut down, a development which has caused us to experiment mightily, as we have

found ourselves worshipping together and apart during this time of pandemic coronavirus... Still, blessed are you and me and blessed are the millions of the faithful, who though we have not been eye-witnesses to the ministry of Jesus in Galilee and in Judea and in Jerusalem... who though we have not been eye-witnesses to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus... who have been given the divine gift of the living faith... not through evidence that we can handle, but through the eye-sight of faith... through the hearing of faith... through the heart of faith... a faith centered upon the great gifts ... found in a God who is so very much bigger than we are, a Fatherly God who is far more powerful and creative than we can possibly imagine... found in a God who is so very much like us, a God become human to live as we live, and to suffer and to die, that you and I might be given the ultimate gift of life for today and tomorrow and forever... found in a God willing to live within and among us, gathering us together to care for one another, and to share in word and deed, the gift of faith which we've received with others.

There is a content to that faith, given to us individually and together...by and through and in the Holy God... who is at once the Creative Father... the only begotten Son... and life-giving Holy Spirit. From around the beginning of the first century, Christians the world over have confessed the content of this faith in all the seasons of life... at Baptisms... at Confirmations... at Weddings... at Ordinations and Consecrations... in moments of Confession and Absolution... at worship centered around the Sacrament of Holy Communion... at sick-beds and at death-beds... as well as at Funerals. Christians the world over have in good times and troubled times confessed the content of our faith... in the words of what has come down to us as the Apostles Creed... confessing belief in God the Father, Almighty... confessing belief in Jesus Christ, our Lord... confessing belief in God's Holy Spirit... for it is indeed true, there is a content to the faith that we are blessed to believe, even though we only see through the eyes of faith... even though we hear only through the ears of faith... that we experience only through the heart of faith...

As heirs of the Lutheran Reformation, an appropriate Easter question for us is, "What does this mean?" Martin Luther gives us the answer, that so very many of us have memorized over the years.

Of God the Father Almighty:

*I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore, I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.*

Of Jesus Christ, God only Son our Lord:

*I believe that Jesus Christ-true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary-is my Lord. At great cost, he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil-not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.*

And of God's Holy Spirit:

*I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christ church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this christen church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.*

**“Blessed are those who believe but who have not seen.”**

Even in times when we have been focused on illness and death... practicing social distancing and with most of our society shut down, even, for the first time in my lifetime, our churches have shut down, a development which has caused us to experiment mightily, as we have found ourselves worshipping together and apart during this time of pandemic coronavirus...

**“Blessed are those who believe but who have not seen.”**

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day:

# We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near, and seek where you are found:  
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## Prayers of the People

Responsive Sentence for the Sundays of Easter:  
Set our minds on heavenly things: **Fill us with your joy.**

Heavenly Father, even as you promised King David that the Messiah would be his descendant, King David prophesied that you would raise the Messiah from the dead. We thank you for keeping your promise and fulfilling your prophet's word. **R**

Heavenly Father, protect us from the pit of death with your strong right arm and raise us up like Jesus. Be our path of life, our joy, our confidence for an everlasting future with you. **R**

By your great mercy, Heavenly Father, you give us a new birth of expectation through Jesus Christ, the very salvation of our souls. Though tested with trials, may our faith always honor and praise you. **R**

We yearn, Lord Jesus Christ, to hear you say, "Peace be with you." With nail-pierced hands extended, give us the ear of faith to hear you say that we are also your beloved disciples. **R**

Holy Spirit, very God at work in our hearts, minds and souls, fill us with trust in the Word, love for one another, and the very presence of Christ in our lives. **R**

Our world suffers, Lord God, from disbelief in your presence and your promises. Give us a voice to speak clearly, live rightly and care for this precious earth from which we were born, to which we return and from which you will raise us up. **R**

Lord Jesus, you know all among us who suffer from loneliness, disease, wavering faith and losses of all kinds. Hear us as we name our kindred, friends and even our enemies who need your touch:

- **HUGHES & MERIDETH FAMILIES** *struggles w/numerous health issues*
- **KYM Earles** *health & life struggles*
- **ALBERT Jackson** *life struggles*
- **SHARON Cottengim** *health struggles*
- **ADDIE Curtis** *child with health struggles*
- **JIM Watt** *health struggles*
- **WAYNE Weissenbuehler** *health concerns*
- **ADAM & FAMILY** *life struggles*
- **CHISUM FAMILY** *life struggles*
- **STEVE Kirven** *health/healing*
- **TERRY Bona** *health struggles*
- **ASHLEY Monk** *health*
- **RICK Payne** *multiple health issues/struggles*
- **IRENE Ruse** *health issues*
- **JUSTIN McNabb** *health*
- **LINO Ramirez** *health/healing*
- **STEPHANIE Mangrum** *healing/health*
- **MEGAN & BRAD Hill** *life struggles*

- **RHONDA** Clouse *health struggles*
- **GARY** Dominick *health struggles*
- **DEBRA** Johnson *health/healing*
- **KELLY** Finley *serious health issues*
- **PAISLEY & FAMILY** Choate *child with serious health issues*
- **PAM** Neal *health/well-being*
- **DAVID** Anderson *health/well-being*
- **CHARLIE & CAROL** Burnette *health & healing/strength & well-being*
- **HAROLD** Harmon *health*
- **VICTIMS OF COVID-19 VIRUS & CONTROL OF SPREADING THIS VIRUS**
- **CURT** Silvestri *health*
- **CORSON FAMILY** *transition/life changes*
- **JOANNA & JOSH** Nannestad *transition/life changes*
- **JOSH** Dufur *35yr son of DHS teacher recuperating from COVID-19*
- **STEVEN** Rhodes *recovered from COVID-19 and returning to work*
- **COURTNEY** *ill with COVID-19*
- **BAILEY** Clark *ill with COVID-19*
- **LORENDA & GARY** Hicks *recovering from COVID-19*
- **GLENDA** Wheat *Bailey's mother caring for him & exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19*
- **FAMILY OF VINCE** Cass *mourning loss of loved one*
- **BROWN FAMILY** *1 family member has died & 2 currently suffering from COVID-19*
- **KARLA** Vasek *health issue*
- **JOHN** Harris *health/healing from surgery*
- **GARY** Zimmerman *health/healing*
- **KATHLEEN, BRANDON & FAMILY** Burnette *stillborn baby boy*
- **CLARICE** Riege *health/healing*
- **RAJEANIA** Johnson *thanksgiving for healing*
- **SUSAN & FAMILY** Carter *sudden & unexpected loss of spouse*
- **KEN** Foster *serious health issue*
- **WASHINGTON IRVING SCHOOL** *prayer & partnership with staff, teachers & students*
- **WESLEY CENTER** *students, staff & programs*
- **LIGHT OF HOPE SHELTER** *praying that this homeless shelter soon becomes a reality.*
- **ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN** *Waco*
- **KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN** *Ft. Worth*
- **LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION**
- **OUR SAVIOUR'S** *ministries & community outreach / transition* **R**

Help us listen closely to your Word, even as you listen to our prayers. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn:

### That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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## Benediction

And now may Almighty God, the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us together and apart, keeping us in his light, in his grace, in his love, and his mercy, and his truth, now and forever. Amen.

*Worship Service developed by The Rev. T. Brady Eggleston  
Hymn Selections by Joanna Nannestad*