



“Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed.”

+ *John 20:29b (NKJV)*

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021



“Thomas the Doubter” by Eduard von Gebhardt (1838-1925), Public Domain

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

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 do we have? We have Christ! We have His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and we have His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His true body and most precious blood. And though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with Saint Thomas to confess, “My Lord and my God!”

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699


Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠


HYMN OF INVOCATION: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. 1–3


Refrain




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



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the
Who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
C Amen.
- 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. *[Hebrews 10:22]*
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

- C** Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



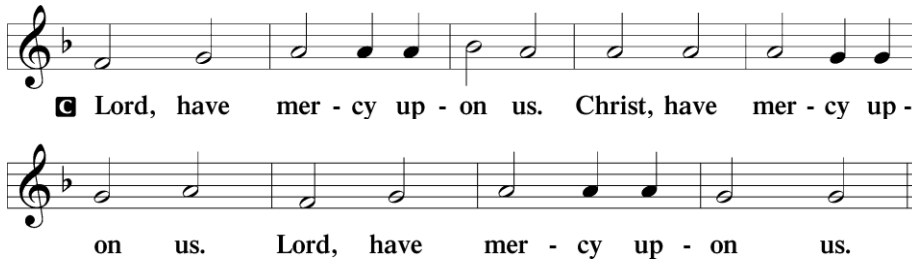
(Antiphon) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*
if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

- 1 Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on His name; *
make known His deeds among the | peoples!
 - 2 **Sing to Him, sing prais- | es to Him; ***
tell of all His | wondrous works!
 - 3 Glory in His | holy name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!
 - 4 **Seek the LORD | and His strength; ***
seek His presence con- | tinually!
 - 5 Remember the wondrous works that | He has done, *
His miracles, and the judgments He | uttered.
 - 8 **He remembers His covenant for- | ever, ***
the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The antiphon is repeated.

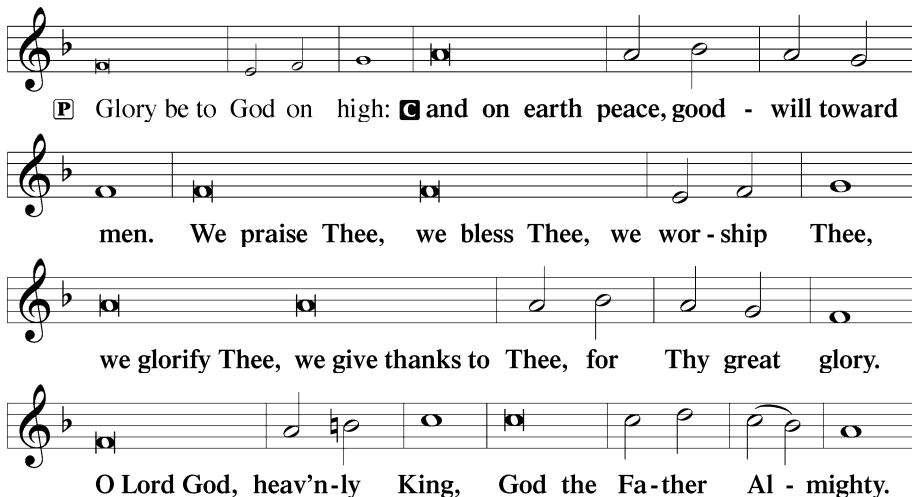
KYRIE

Mark 10:47



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

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 A - men.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32–35

P The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter four.

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.

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and | honor.

He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands,*

He has put all things un- | der His feet.

EPISTLE

1 John 1:1—2:2

P The Epistle is from First John, chapters one and two.

^{1:1}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— 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.

^{2:1}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. 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.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. *The alleluias are repeated.*

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31 (NKJV)

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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.

²¹So Jesus said to them again, **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send 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 any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

²⁴Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵The other disciples therefore said to him, **“We have seen the Lord.”**

So he said to them, **“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”**

²⁶And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **“Peace to you!”** ²⁷Then He said to Thomas, **“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”**

²⁸And Thomas answered and said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”**

²⁹Jesus said to him, **“Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

³⁰And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Stand

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. 4–7

Refrain



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



4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard
6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see,
7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied;



A - mong them came their mas - ter dear And said, "My
That they had seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed
And look up - on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less
He saw the feet, the hands, the side; "You are my



peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
the dis - ci - ples' word. Al - le - lu - ia!
but be - liev - ing be." Al - le - lu - ia!
Lord and God!" he cried. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the sermon, the pastor may say:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Philippians 4:7

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: The Litany of the Resurrection

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In thanksgiving to God, who has raised Christ from the dead, that He would bestow His Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins on us; for joyful life as Christians who, through Holy Baptism, have been crucified and raised up with Christ; and that we may be given boldness to testify of Him, His forgiveness, and His peace to all who will hear, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the Church, that as Christ appeared alive to His disciples and sent them out to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name, so He would continue to raise up faithful men for His holy ministry and bless their work among us who, with Saint Thomas, confess Jesus as Lord and God, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have wandered from the household of faith, that faithful to His promises God would work all things in their lives to remind them of their need for His unending grace and steadfast love; and that they would return to the faith and delight in Christ, crucified and raised for them, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the authorities God has placed over us in federal, state, and local governments, especially Joseph, Gavin, and Cheryl, that He would give them the desire to serve with integrity and honor, and to work for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who commune, that as the disciples were made glad in Christ's risen and life-giving flesh on the first day of the week and again eight days later, so we, too, would find gladness in His wounds and His abiding presence among us each week in the blessed Sacrament; and that God would give us an increasing hunger for the Word of peace given here in this Holy Supper, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that out of Your indescribable grace and for the sake of Your Son You have given us the Holy Gospel and instituted the Holy Sacraments, that through them we may have comfort and the forgiveness of sin. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily believe Your Word, and through the Holy Sacraments establish our faith day by day, until at last we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

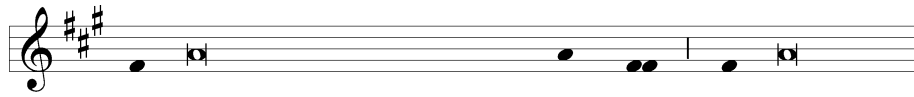
O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

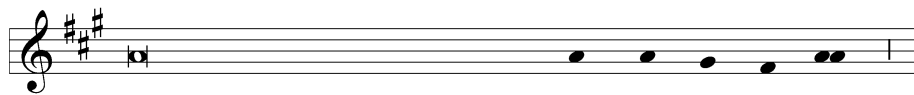
Stand

BENEDICTION

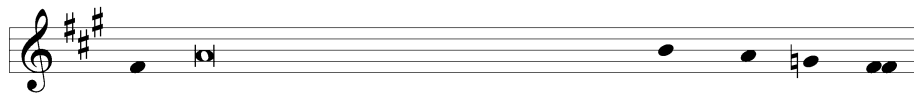
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.


CLOSING HYMN: O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471, sts. 8-9

Refrain



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




8 How blest are they who have not seen
9 On this most ho - ly day of days



And yet whose faith has con - stant been, For they e -
Be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise: To God your

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



ter - nal life shall win. Al - le - lu - ia!
hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

No, I didn't just recycle my message from last Sunday. Easter is a season—not merely a Sunday.

So . . . Happy Easter, again!

Of course, with the start of Spring and around Easter each year, things start to warm up in the Valley (and I am dreading the extreme heat of our summers)! So before things got too hot, we spent last Sunday playing at the church for a while and working on Leo's garden at home.

Oh! Did I forget to mention that Leo wanted to start gardening? Well, the school has a little garden and Leo is always getting excited to see how much the plants have grown; so we decided to make a trip to Lowe's and pick up a little garden box, some soil, and some seed!

Now Leo wakes up every day, tears open his windows, and peeks out to see if anything new has sprouted up in his garden! And, lo and behold! We have some big leaves (I included a picture of Leo very seriously explaining all the new leaves on the strawberry plant and the adjacent cucumber plants).

Not to be outdone, little Sam has gotten into the act—at least on the back end of the agricultural economy. Holly snapped this great pic of Sam in the playhouse at the school playground and we decided that he was working "Sam's Fruit Stand!" What a smile! How could you NOT buy some produce from this guy?!

While I don't have his adorable smile and chubby little cheeks, I hope you'll still join me this week for our "Zoom" Bible Study on Tuesday at Noon. I bet Sam might make an appearance!

But I would love to see/hear you as we resume our study of the psalms, continuing with Psalm 37 (we pushed it off from last week). And then tune-in or come by in-person on Wednesday night at 7:00pm for our short prayer service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join the study by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is "12345"

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box:
Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

P.S. Next Sunday is a really special day—the **500th Anniversary of Imperial Diet of Worms** where Luther famously said, **"Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."**

And with that in mind, what a great day to be in the house of the Lord, to worship and confess His holy name, making this saying of Luther our prayer:

"Here (in Your church) I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

