

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org



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 God's Word, 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.

GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

You may send your photos and/or God Stories to GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org. Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful and just God,

People: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Pastor: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of † Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.


People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.


GATHERING SONG

"Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen"


Refrain




Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is a - ris - en.




Bright is the dawn-ing of the Lord's day.



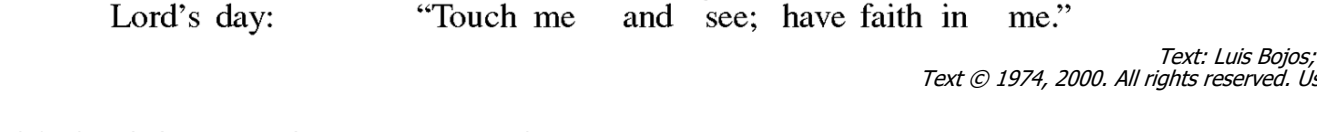
3 Gath - er, dis - ci - ples, in the eve - ning: sud - den - ly



4 Thom-as, where were you on that eve - ning? "I'll not be -

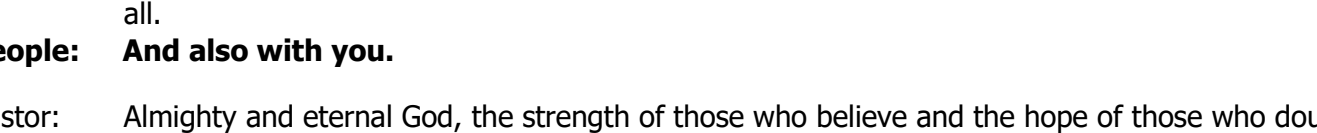


Christ your Lord ap - pears. "Look, it is I, your wound-ed




lieve un - less I see." Christ comes a - gain, and ev - 'ry

Refrain



Sav - ior. Peace be with you, and do not fear."



Lord's day: "Touch me and see; have faith in me."

*Text: Luis Bojos; tr. Martin A. Seltz
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APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the Lent-Easter bucket collection (Disaster Response).

*Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.*

FIRST READING

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.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses." (Acts 2:14a, 22-32)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

Lector: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

**People: All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

Lector: But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**People: I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

Lector: O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

**People: My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

Lector: I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

**People: I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Lector: My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

**People: For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

Lector: You will show me the path of life;

**People: in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SECOND READING

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.

Lector: A reading from 1 Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:19-31)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Be Not Afraid"

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Be Not Afraid". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The music is in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

*Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
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NICENE CREED

People: 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 INTERCESSION

Pastor: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief. We pray for all in any need, especially: *Nancy Baldwin; Margaret Blank; Jerry Mancuso; Helen Bradham; Charles Kauffman; JoAnn Pulse; the Day family; the Smith family; Jeff Ream; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, advocates for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith, *especially Olavus Petri and Laurentius Petri, renewers of the church, whom we commemorate today.* Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face continued uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care and essential workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us with your love and grace, for service in your name in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION (IN TIME OF FASTING FROM THE MEAL)

Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we have been fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we fast from the Lord's Supper on this day, we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion, as we look forward to the joy of that day when we will again be gathered and fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal this day for reasons you understand, we sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting that day when we may fully share in his meal, we still remember, and cherish in our hearts, the words uplifting this great and glorious gift which Jesus gave us:

People: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and looking forward to that day when we will all be gathered again around the Lord's Table.

SONG FOR REFLECTION

"Open Up"

*You heard the cry of our hearts
and you came down
Freely you gave us your love
showing us how (Chorus)*



Make me an in - stru - ment of Your peace, where there is ha - tred let
me sow love, where there is dark - ness let me shine light and
May Your love cause us to o - pen up, cause us to o - pen up our hearts.
May Your light cause us to shine so bright that we bring hope in - to the dark.

*May we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love*

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING JESUS' SENDING US INTO THE WORLD +

SENDING SONG

"All the People Said Amen"

*You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need (Chorus)*

*If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all (Chorus/Bridge)*

CHORUS



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

And all the peo - ple said, "A -



-men."

Give thanks to the Lord, _ for His love _ nev - er ends. _



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

CCLI Song # 6518275; Words & Music by Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan & Paul Moad;
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BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!





Easter Seasonal Emphasis

“Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised!” - Matthew 28:5-6

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER:

A Rip in the Seams

Rather than saddling him with a disgraced reputation and besmirching his character by dubbing him “the great doubter,” would it not be nearer the truth to reconsider and rightly recognize Thomas as a “most sincere believer”?

It was an easy and unsurprising move for Jesus’ disciples to seize upon the idea that following their Nazarene teacher would make them great. After all, nothing and no one seemed able to put a stranglehold on his triumphs: not hunger, disease, or storm; neither demons nor priests. He was God-sent, God-empowered, God-blessed.

But there was a rip in the seams that held all the pieces of those disciples’ gathered hopes together: Jesus’ unstoppable talk of least and last, served and suffering, freeing and forgiving, dying and departing.

So, when their imagination of who God is and how God acts failed them; when priests and courts condemned and soldiers killed their would-be king, Jesus; when Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped his body and buried his corpse, and Mary Magdalene’s unimaginable announcement, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18), left them doubtful and frightened—they locked their doors. The Lord they imagined—the way of God they had hoped for—was dead.

If Jesus’ miraculous entry somehow through closed and bolted doors and his spoken word first revived the doubting disciples’ faith, it happened differently for Thomas, who was not with them. The disciples reported to him what had happened, choosing the same words spoken by Mary Magdalene that, just days before, had left them doubtful: “We have seen the Lord” (John 20:25). Courageously honest, inviting pious disrepute through the ages, Thomas dared to say that he believed Jesus’ own predictive words about serving and suffering, dying and departing. Thomas trusted that the Christ would bear the marks, embody the scars, and retain the wounds of an unimaginable God. A week later, on seeing the risen Lord, Thomas’s belief was confirmed. In sincere faith indeed he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

+ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY +

Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church
These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.