

THE RISEN WAY
Second Sunday of Easter
4-12-26

Worship Theme: THE RISEN WAY!

In the Book of Acts, the Risen Lord Jesus continues His work. In the acts of the earliest believers, they are acting a certain way that's different after the resurrection than it was before. The resurrection really does change things for us. It changes the way we live, it changes what we believe, it changes how we act. It's the Risen Way!

† GOD CALLS †

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: On this day our celebration still focuses on the empty tomb, and the victory of Jesus. He is risen.

ALL: He is risen indeed!

Pastor: And there is even more to celebrate, as we think of the words of the risen Christ, spoken to His first disciples and to us -

ALL: "Peace be with you."

OPENING SONG

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house

to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These 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. ⁸ Though 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

⁹ On 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!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

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

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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."

²⁶ A 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!" ²⁷ Then 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."

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

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

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

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Let us now humbly confess our sins to God our Father, seeking His mercy, love and forgiveness.

ALL: Forgive us Father, for the times we live as if Christ were still in the tomb. Forgive us for the times we remain buried in our sins, dead to the guiding of Your Spirit. Forgive us for our sins of thoughts, words, and deeds. And grant us your word of peace!

Pastor: The empty tomb proclaims the Gospel of Christ. He died for us, as the sacrifice for our sins. Our sins are no more. They were put to death with Christ. He was raised by the Father that those who believe in Him might also rise to walk in newness of life, here and now, and for all eternity. To those who believe, He gives power to become the children of God, rejoicing in the power of the resurrection. Christ is "our Lord and our God". And he declares his word of peace to you this day, “Your sins are forgiven.” He is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed! Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE “In Christ Alone” (v. 1-3)

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

MESSAGE

“God’s Wisdom, Human Wisdom, and the Power of the Resurrection”
Acts 5:29-42

SONG OF THE DAY

“Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise” (LW 451 v. 1-3, NOT LSB!)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, O Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Not wanting nor wasting, you rule in your might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3All life you engender in great and in small;
To all life befriender, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish in richness and range,
We wither and perish, but you never change.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
- The Nicene Creed**

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.

**BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS
*with Thanksgiving in our Offering***

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

† GOD GIVES TO US †

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION

“At the Lamb’s High Feast” (LSB 633, 1, 2, 4, 7, 8)

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious king
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we him, whose love divine
Gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

“Because He Lives”

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. *Refrain*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy He gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He lives *Refrain*

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain,
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns *Refrain*

Refrain:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB 456 v. 1-3)

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
And by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

† GOD BLESSES AND SENDS US OUT †

Benediction

Pastor: Go now with the comfort and assurance that Jesus has risen from the grave. Go in peace for He is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!