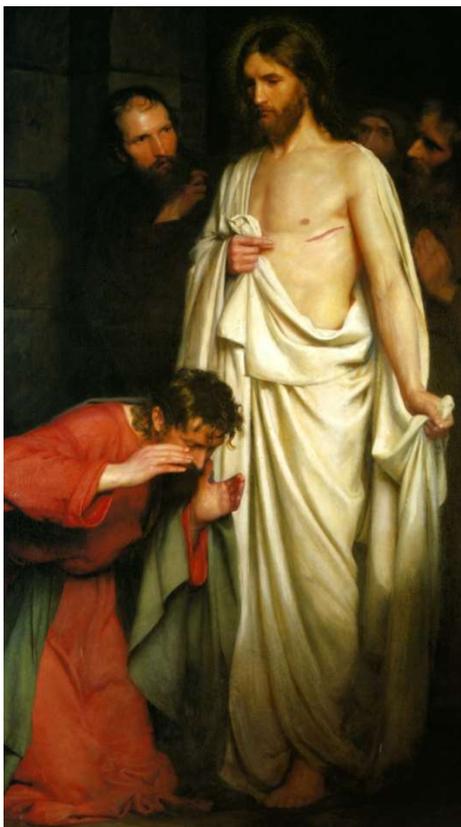


April 23, 2017
Second Sunday of Easter



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.

Welcome

LBW 148 - Now the Green Blade Rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

*Tune: French Carol; Text: John M. C. Crum
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I Danced In the Morning (Lord of the Dance)

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
they whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
and they left me there on a Cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance, and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Sydney Bertram Carter

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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.

LBW 135 - The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.

All glory to our risen head!
Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell.
Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,
From death's sting free your servants too,
That we may live and sing to you.
Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina; Text: tr. Francis Pott
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Lessons

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them..., 22“**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—** 23**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.** 24**But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.** 25**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; 26therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. 27For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. 28You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ 29“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. 30Since 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. 31Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ 32This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.**

1 Peter 1:3-9

3**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, 4and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** 6**In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7so 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. 8Although 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, 9for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

Hymn of Praise – Glory to God – (tune: “**Crown Him with Many Crowns**”)

**Glory to God on high, and to the earth God’s peace!
With thanks God’s name we glorify; let gladsome praise increase!
With angel hosts we sing your holy name to bless,
Almighty Father, heav’nly King, enthroned in holiness.**

**Jesus, the Father’s Son, the Lamb for sinners slain,
Ascended to your heav’nly throne, o’er all the earth you reign.
Have mercy, Lord, we pray; your steadfast love declare.
The sin of all you take away; receive our ardent prayer.**

**For you, O Christ, alone – you only are the Lord;
You only are the Holy One by earth and heav’n adored.
To all eternity you with the Spirit live
In God the Father’s majesty. To God all glory give!**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

19When 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.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So 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.”

26A 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.” 27Then 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.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But 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.

Message

Song: Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord.
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord.

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Stained glass windows
Flow streams of color
From Your Son's love,
Opens my eyes.
Now I lay me before Your altar.
Lord, Your servant am I.

I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord.
I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee,
I exalt Thee, O Lord.

*By John Thompson & Randy Scruggs
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Message

LBW 410 We Give Thee but Thine Own

We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.

To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend those lost in loneliness,
Is angels' work below.

May we thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us,
To thee our first fruits give.

The captive to release,
The lost to God to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—
It is a Christ-like thing.

Hearts still are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
Are straying from the fold.

And we believe thy word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
We do it unto thee.

*Tune: Mason and Webb; Text: William W. How
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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Church

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: ...Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

Prayers are concluded with

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Lord's Prayer

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

LBW 143 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heaven 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!

Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesänge; Text: Paul Z. Strodach
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Sending:

A: He is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A: Go in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A: Share the light of Christ.

C: **Yes, Lord, we will**

ONE WEEK AFTER EASTER.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME.
WE KEEP BANGING ON
ABOUT DOUBTING
THOMAS —
YOU'D THINK WE'D CUT
HIM A BREAK!



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DON'T YOU THINK THAT
SOME PEOPLE FIND
ENCOURAGEMENT TO
BELIEVE THE WITNESS
OF THE APOSTLES
BECAUSE OF THOMAS'
STRUGGLE WITH UNBELIEF?



MAYBE...
BUT I
DOUBT IT.



John 20: 19-31

G. WETTERSTEN 05/08