

# The Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon



Hymn #489 "Hail Thee, Festival Day"

*REFRAIN*

**Hail thee, festival day!  
Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our Lord was raised,  
Breaking the kingdom of death.**

*CONGREGATION:*

All the fair beauty of earth  
From the death of the winter arising!  
Ev'ry good gift of the year  
Now with its master returns: **REFRAIN**

*VOCALIST:*

*Rise from the grave now, O Lord,  
The author of life and creation.  
Treading the pathway of death,  
New life You give to us all: REFRAIN*

*CONGREGATION:*

God the Almighty, the Lord,  
The ruler of earth and the heavens,  
Guard us from harm without;  
Cleanse us from evil within: **REFRAIN**

*VOCALIST:*

*Jesus, the health of the world,  
Creator of all and redeemer,  
Son of the Father supreme,  
Only-begotten of God: REFRAIN*

*CONGREGATION:*

Spirit of life and of pow'r,  
Now flow in us, fount of our being,  
Light that enlightens us all,  
Life that in all may abide: **REFRAIN**

*VOCALIST:*

*Praise to the giver of good!  
O Lover and Author of concord,  
Pour out Your balm on our days;  
Order our ways in Your peace: REFRAIN*

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## The Easter Dialog

adapted from Revelation 1 & 7\*

**P:** Grace and peace to you from the One Who is, and  
the One Who was, and the One Who will be  
From the sevenfold Spirit before His throne;  
And from Jesus Christ – He is the Faithful Witness,  
the First of the dead to live again and the Ruler over the kings of the earth.

**C: To Him Who loves us  
and by His blood has freed us from our sins,  
and has made us a kingdom,  
priests to God and His Father  
— to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**

**P:** Christ is risen!

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

**P:** The uncountable multitude of nations standing before the throne of the Lamb cry out with a loud voice:

**C: “Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”**

**P:** And all the angels standing around the throne worship Him saying:

**C: “Amen!**

**Praise  
and glory  
and wisdom  
and thanks  
and honor  
and power  
and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”**

**P:** Christ is risen!

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

## Confession of Sins and Declaration of Grace

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Introit

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

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation —  
**if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;  
**make known His deeds among the peoples!**  
Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
**tell of all His wondrous works!**  
Glory in His holy name;  
**let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**  
Seek the LORD and His strength;  
**seek His presence continually!**  
Remember the wondrous works that He has done,  
**His miracles, and the judgments He uttered.**  
He remembers His covenant forever,  
**the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation —  
**if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P:** 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;

**C: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Hymn #472 "These Things Did Thomas Count as Real" sung to #405

These things did Thomas count as real:  
The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,  
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,  
The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his skeptic mind  
Was keen enough to make him blind  
To any unexpected act  
Too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied  
That one could live when one had died,  
Until his fingers read like braille  
The markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe  
And thus the risen Christ receive,  
Whose raw imprinted palms reached out  
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

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### New Testament Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

The 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. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There 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 <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

## Gradual

adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

**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 under His feet.**

## Epistle Lesson

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

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— <sup>2</sup>the 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— <sup>3</sup>that 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. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But 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. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

## Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Twentieth chapter

**C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn #470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

Verse 1-3, 8 & 9 – All

Verses 4 & 6 – Women

Verses 5 & 7 – Men

O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sits and speaks unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## Sermon

## The Apostles' Creed

**P:** ..."don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection." (Romans 6:3-5) Since God has made us His children through our baptism into Christ, with trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## Offering

### The Litany of the Resurrection

<b>P:</b> O Lord,	<b>C: have mercy.</b>
<b>P:</b> O Christ,	<b>C: have mercy.</b>
<b>P:</b> O Lord,	<b>C: have mercy.</b>
<b>P:</b> Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,	<b>C: hear us.</b>

**P:** Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world;  
Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification;  
Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light;  
Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women;  
Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,  
Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them  
in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,  
Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe;  
Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish;  
Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles,  
and to Paul on the Damascus road;  
Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

**C: have mercy on us.**

<b>P:</b> By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,	<b>C: good Lord, deliver us.</b>
<b>P:</b> By Your victory over sin and death,	<b>C: good Lord, deliver us.</b>
<b>P:</b> By the majesty of Your risen body,	<b>C: good Lord, deliver us.</b>
<b>P:</b> We poor sinners implore You	<b>C: to hear us, Lord Jesus.</b>

**P:** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness;  
That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been  
served by You;  
That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem,  
together with all the saints,

**C: grant us, good Lord.**

*The petitions of the Church are now offered . . .*

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**P:** Christ, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,

**C: grant us Your peace.**

<b>P:</b> O Lord,	<b>C: have mercy.</b>
<b>P:</b> O Christ,	<b>C: have mercy.</b>
<b>P:</b> O Lord,	<b>C: have mercy. Amen</b>

## The Words of Institution

### Proclamation of Christ

**P:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**Hymn during Communion #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"**

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!

Where the paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Alleluia!

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

Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
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.

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## Post-Communion Prayer

**P:** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Benediction

**P:** May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him,

**C: through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn #480 "He's Risen, He's Risen!"

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

△ Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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