

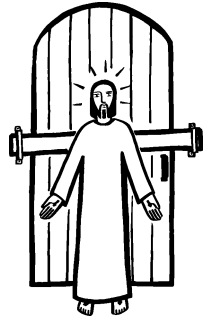
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I wish all of you a blessed Easter as we continue the celebration of God raising Jesus! The service for the Second Sunday of Easter follows below. Within the service, there are links for hymns and the sermon. God's peace and well-being be with you all.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor John

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020



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.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING SONG: We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBUiB6Nt28M>

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.

Amen.

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16:1-11

1 Peter 1:3-9

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.

SERMON: *A Conversation with Thomas, the Apostle*

(What follows is a conversation between Pastor John and Thomas, the Apostle. Thank you to Patrick Anderson for serving in the role of Thomas. Details related to both Thomas' absence from the Upper Room on Easter night and his family are purely speculation by the pastor.)

<https://youtu.be/7DBmsc7Yg1k>

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

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.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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, all impacted by Covid 19, all who serve in medical offices, hospitals, and clinics, and all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. (*Here other worldwide ministries may be named.*) Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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*). Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, 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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG Thine is the Glory, Risen Conquering Son

"Thine is the Glory" is a beloved hymn for Easter written in 1884 by Edmond Budry (1834-1932) after the death of his first wife and its lyrics were set to a melody from Handel's oratorio, "Joshua," which was written in 1747. Budry was a multi-lingual Swiss minister, writer and translator who first wrote the hymn's lyrics in French; subsequently, they were later translated into English by Richard Hoyle in 1923.

"Thine is the Glory" epitomizes the "heart-swelling" music that is loved by many. That said, however, its message is profound. Quite simply, overwhelmed and humbled by his own life experiences, Budry realized God provides all we need for true and lasting victory through Christ. Hence, he crafted the hymn's refrain claiming,

***"Thine is the glory,
risen conquering Son,
endless is the vict'ry,
Though o'er death has won!"***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI>

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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The book group at Holy Trinity has been reading Pat Conroy's *The Water is Wide*. If you are looking for a movie to watch, the film version of the book can be seen on Hallmark and also on You Tube.

We are praying for the following:

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| Dawne | Frank | Alice |
| Jean | Bev | Pat |
| Robert | John | Sandy |
| Candy | Mary Ellen | John C. |
| John Jr. | Dick | Dot |
| Dennis | Bobby | Carol |
| Tim | Kathy E. | Jackie |
| Phyllis | Pat | Alice |
| Michelle | Carol | Zion Lutheran Church, Barnegat Light |
| Cody | Bob | Mary Ellen T. |
| Ann | Irene | Maddie |
| Lynn | Emit | Family of Ann Rivoire |
| Dot | Jeanette | |