

As We Gather

The Easter Story continues. We are assured that our sins are forgiven our journey is everlasting. In the disciple Thomas we see ourselves, but let us be guided by the Holy Spirit and trust in his word.

Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn: 482 This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joyful Eastertide
 Away with sin and sorrow!
 My love, the Crucified,
 Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain.

ref Had Christ, who once was slain,
 Not burst His three-day prison,
 Our faith had been in vain:
 But now has Christ arisen,
 arisen, arisen;
 But now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill
 Since Jesus crossed the river;
 Lover of souls, from ill
 My passing soul deliver: Refrain.

3 My flesh in hope shall rest
 And for a season slumber
 Till trump from east to west
 Shall wake the dead in number:

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Welcome

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Stand

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

- 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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- 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.**

Absolution

- 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.**

Kyrie

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 5:29–42

P The First Reading is from Acts, the fifth chapter.

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.
³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 1:3–9

P The Epistle is from 1 Peter, the first chapter.

Born Again to a Living Hope

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Common Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia. alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹On 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.”** ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, **“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”** ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”**

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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.”

²⁶Eight 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” 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 believed.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but 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.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn: 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight,
No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But we believe Him near.
- 2 We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice
And cry “My Lord and God!”
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found.
- 4 For You, O resurrected Lord,
Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word,
Beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light

We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

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Sermon

“The Lords Word Helps”

Pastor Perez

Apostles' Creed

**☩ 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Let us shed our doubts and come joyfully before the Lord in prayer, confident that He will hear and answer us according to His promise.

Brief silence

Lord God, like Thomas we wrestle with faith amid doubts and fears. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that believing, we may see, and, seeing, we may rejoice in Your Son and in the power of His resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You know the hearts of Your people and those who have wandered into error or have fallen away from the faith. Rekindle faith in them and restore them to

the fold, that their voices may be one with us in prayer and praise again. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the threats against us are great, but You are greater still. Deliver us from conflict, war and oppression, and provide for us good, wise and honorable leaders who will serve the causes of justice and freedom for all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, without Your guidance, we are lost. Give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach faithfully at all times and missionaries through whom Your Word extends to those still in the darkness of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we live in community with our neighbors. Make us good citizens, and give to us good government in our cities and towns. Open our hearts to the stranger, and help us serve our neighbors in love as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the trials and troubles of this mortal life weigh heavy upon us. Give to the sick and those who suffer the consolation of Your grace and healing according to Your will, [*especially for _____,*] that we may have courage, confidence and peace in every circumstance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the things of this world too often distract us from the one great treasure of Christ, who died that we might live and who lives that we might never die. Guide us in the use of things, that we may ever be grateful for Your gifts and use them wisely for Your purpose and glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, even as we remember the Passover in this Holy Supper, we anticipate the heavenly and eternal meal to come, rejoicing to know that the divisions of time and space will be bridged and all Your children will be together in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we have learned to trust in Your mercy and to abide in faith amid all circumstances. Even now, we pray without fear that Your will be done for us, among us and through us, and that in all things we may learn to be content in Your grace and favor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering (sing during)

Offertory-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.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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

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.

C **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Announcements

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Closing Hymn: 480 He's Risen, He's Risen

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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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