

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, April 7, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!  
If you have no church home, consider joining us.  
Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service.

## Opening Song      Resurrection Hymn (See What a Morning)

See what a morning, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem.  
Folded, the grave-clothes; tomb filled with light  
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"  
See God's salvation plan,  
Wrought in love, born in pain, paid in sacrifice;  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:  
Christ is risen from the dead.

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb,  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name-  
It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years –  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us –  
Will sound 'til He appears, for He lives:  
Christ is risen from the dead.

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit, who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King, crowned with pow'r and authority.  
And we are raised with Him-  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.  
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives;  
Christ is risen from the dead.

And we are raised with Him-  
Death is dead, love has, Christ has conquered.  
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives,  
Christ is risen from the dead!

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*“Resurrection Hymn” words and music by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI# 2960087*

P 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. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Christ is risen!

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

## **Prayer of the Day**

P Almighty God, grant that our Easter faith not be only a matter of Sunday tradition, but will change how we care for one another and share our joy in active love and service each day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us.  
How high the mountain I could not climb.  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night.  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul.  
The work is finished, the end is written.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.  
The King of kings calls me His own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain.  
There's salvation in Your name.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain.  
There's salvation in Your name.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,  
Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me.  
Then came the morning that sealed the promise,

Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me.  
Jesus ,Yours is the victory!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain.  
There's salvation in Your name.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!  
You have broken every chain.  
There's salvation in Your name.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.  
Oh God, You are my living hope!

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## **The First Reading**

## **Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle Reading

## 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 have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write this to make our joy complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

<sup>2</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

## John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>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!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

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

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples 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 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.”

<sup>26</sup> 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!” <sup>27</sup> 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.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

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

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe<sup>[b]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah, 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.

## **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.**

## **I Believe**

I believe there is one salvation  
One doorway that leads to life  
One redemption one confession  
I believe in the name of Jesus Christ

I believe in the crucifixion  
By His blood I have been set free  
I believe in the resurrection  
Hallelujah His life is death's defeat

All praise to God the Father  
All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit  
Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

I believe in the hope of heaven  
He's preparing a place for me  
Far beyond what hearts imagine  
Ears have heard or eyes have seen

I believe that day is coming  
He's returning to claim His bride  
Light the altar keep it burning  
See the Lamb who rose a roaring Lion

All praise to God the Father  
All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit  
Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe



No I'll never be ashamed  
Of the gospel of Jesus Christ  
How could I ever walk away  
From the One who saved my life

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**Sermon      Forgiving Challenge: Introduction**

**John 20:19-31**

**The Offering**

## Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus, we pray that You would use us and the gifts You have given to us to serve anyone in need. Open our eyes to see opportunities near and far in which we may serve Your gracious plans. All that we have and are belongs to You.

C **Risen Christ, grant us to be of one heart and soul, sharing not only our common faith but all that we are and have.**

P We pray for people who are homeless, hungry, captive, and in mourning. Surround them, heavenly Father, with people of faith in our risen Savior, brothers and sisters who will tend to them with compassion and love. We pray for those near and dear to us, [*especially* . . .]. Wherever Your plans include us, O Lord,

C **open our hearts and hands, voices and resources to share the difference Easter makes for all who trust in our risen Savior.**

P We pray for those who are rich and those who are poor, those who influence our nation and those who live unnoticed. O Holy Spirit, be among our brothers and sisters—those who have vast resources; all who make, administer, and judge our laws; and parents, teachers, and counselors—all who know Christ as their living Lord.

C **Give them courage and caring hearts so that through them Your will shall be done.**

P We pray for our congregation, its programs of outreach and growth, and all who worship here. Lord over all, be with us and enliven us to do Your will in Easter joy.

C **Give us strength to show forth the difference Easter makes for us. Guide and protect us, heavenly Father, that we may serve You and the people around us in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### 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**

## The Invitation

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins.

And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

**C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil.**

**I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.**

## Words of Institution

On the night He was betrayed,  
He took the bread, gave thanks, and said,  
"Take eat, my friends, this broken bread,  
this is my body for forgiveness of your sin.  
When you eat, my friends, this meal of love,  
remember me and my love for you again."

On the night He was betrayed,  
He took the cup, gave thanks, and said,  
"Take drink, my friends, this cup of wine,  
this is my blood for forgiveness of your sin.  
When you drink, my friends, this cup of love,  
remember me and my love for you again."

**Oh, we are here, to thank You Lord,  
for the bread and wine outpoured.  
For it is Your body and Your blood  
that You so lovingly and freely give to us.  
So we praise You holy Lamb of God;  
We love You our sweet Jesus.  
We love You our sweet Jesus.  
We love You our sweet Jesus.**

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## **Distribution**

### **Scars**

Waking up to a new sunrise,  
looking back from the other side,  
I can see now with open eyes.

Darkest waster and deepest pain,  
I wouldn't trade it for anything,  
'cause my brokenness brought me to You.  
And these wounds are a story You'll use.

So I'm thankful for the scars,  
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.  
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,  
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

Now I'm standing in confidence  
With the strength of Your faithful ness.  
And I'm not who I was before.  
No, I don't have to fear anymore.

So I'm thankful for the scars,  
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.  
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,  
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

I can see, I can see, how You delivered me.  
In Your hands, in Your feet I found my victory. (Repeat)

So I'm thankful for the scars,  
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.  
And with my life I'll tell of who You are,  
So forever I am thankful.

I'm thankful for the scars,  
'cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart.  
And I know they'll always tell of who You are,  
So forever I am thankful for the scars.  
So forever I am thankful for the scars.

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## **Communion Dismissal**

**P:** Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one true  
faith until life everlasting.  
Go in His peace.

**C:** **Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P:** Let us pray.  
We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this  
Sacrament. We pray that You would strengthen us by it each day to use all that  
we are and have to the good of others and the praise of Your holy name; through  
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **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.**

## **My Redeemer Lives**

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe;  
My shame He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe;  
I'll raise a banner, 'cause my Lord has conquered the grave.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe;  
My shame He's taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe;  
I'll raise a banner, 'cause my Lord has conquered the grave.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

You lift my burden, I'll rise with You;  
I'm dancing on this mountain top to see Your Kingdom come.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives; My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

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