

BLESSED ARE THOSE



WHO HAVE

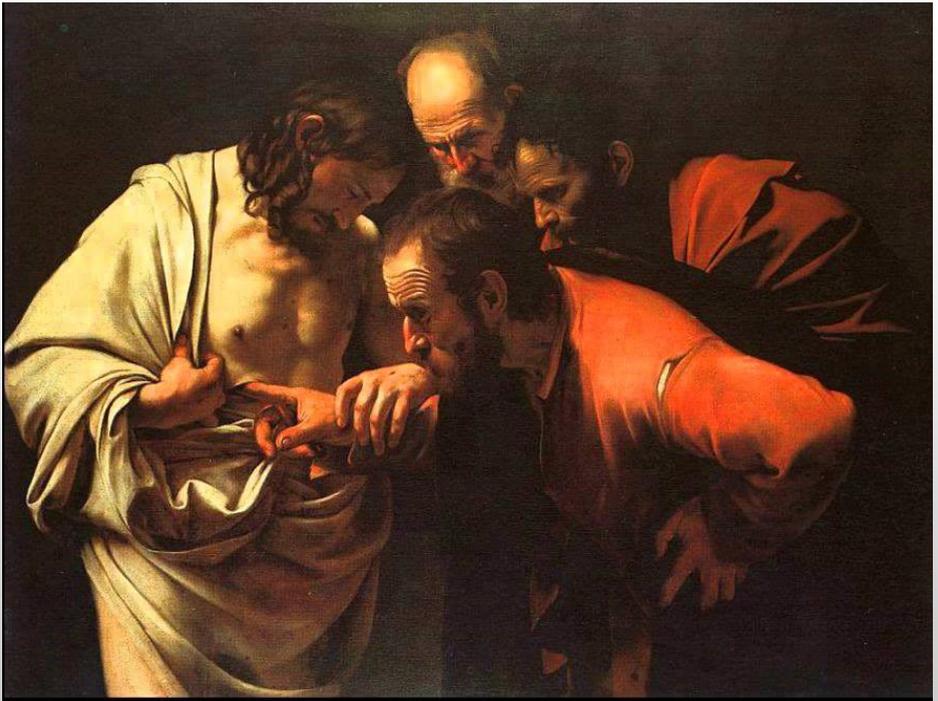
NOT SEEN

YET

Believe



JOHN 20:29



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

### AS WE GATHER...

The word “peace” is central for God’s people to hear time and again as part of worship. The peace of the Lord is exchanged between pastor and congregation and often also spoken among the people of the congregation. It is the last word in the Benediction and is therefore the most frequently used word to close the service. In the era of the Reformation and the decades following, the hymn “Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord” was used immediately after the sermon as a reminder of how important the Lord’s peace was in a world that knew unrest and challenges. It is our blessing to hear that word of peace from our Lord once again today in our world—which also has unrest and challenges.



### OPENING SENTENCES

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

- L** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
- C** death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.
- L** Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
- C** Alleluia, alleluia.

### VERSICLES

LSB 235

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth shall declare Your praise.
- A** 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. Alleluia, alleluia.
- L** Give glory to God, our light and our life
- C** O come, let us worship Him.

### PSALM 148 - READ ALONG AS A FAMILY AT HOME

- 1** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!
- 2** Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!
- 3** Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!

- 4 Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created.
- 6 And He established them forever and ever; He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,
- 8 fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His word!
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- 10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
- 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him.
- Praise the Lord!, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**HYMN:** Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won *Public Domain* **LSB 490** vs. 1,3,4



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus  
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
 liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,  
 sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will



scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.

**FIRST LESSON** (The first Christians proclaim the Good News.)

Acts 5:29–42

<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted Him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But 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. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For 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. <sup>37</sup>After 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. <sup>38</sup>So 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; <sup>39</sup>but 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, <sup>40</sup>and 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. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** (We have new hope through the resurrection of Christ.) **1 Peter 1:3–9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed 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, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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. <sup>8</sup>Though 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, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HOLY GOSPEL** (Jesus appears to His disciples who are behind locked doors.) **St. John 20:19–31**

<sup>19</sup>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.

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

HYMN O Sons and Daughters of the King *Public Domain* 470 vs. 1,4-8



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly  
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them  
5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!  
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."  
seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 6) "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see  
And look upon My hands, My feet  
Not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia!
- 8) How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!
- 7) No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried  
Alleluia!

## SERMON

### EXCHANGE OF PEACE

In our Gospel for today, we heard the account of that special moment when Jesus was reunited with His disciples for the first time after His resurrection. John records that His first words to them were "*Peace be with you!*"

As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to share that most special peace that our Lord first shared in the room behind closed doors as we greet one another today, behind our closed doors. Greet your family next to you with the Peace of Christ and share a hug.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each Prayer will end with:

... Lord, in Your mercy,

Reply with: ... hear our prayer.

## LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**A** 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.

## BENEDICAMUS

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

**L** 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.



1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my  
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by



God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -  
night and day To rob me of this trea - sure And



moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not  
take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -



fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man  
side me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good



wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is  
Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with



all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And  
me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then



trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.  
I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

