

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Second Sunday of Easter ☩ April 19, 2020 ☩ 10:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Kendra Campbell-Milburn and Brad Milburn, Musicians

☩ = Pastor ☩ = Lector [reader] ☩ = Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

PRELUDES

WELCOME

Pastor Miriam

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

ELW Hymn 385

- 1 **Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 **Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 **Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

GREETING

- ☩ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☩ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☩ O God, who raised Christ Jesus from the tomb, we pray that we may receive a strong sense of Christ's presence in our lives.
- ☩ **Living God, we gather today to share in the wonder and mystery of the resurrection of Jesus, an event that even his disciples could not believe at first.**
- ☩ God, if our faith has been our guide into life, then we too have witnessed those moments of dying and rising, when life was filled with suffering or with excitement and undying joy.
- ☩ **We pray this morning that the Spirit of Resurrection would fill us even in times when we might find it hard to believe.**
- ☩ Renew us with the power of your Word, that we might tell others of the meaning of this day.
- ☩ **Lord, give us the courage of our convictions. We pray that your Spirit would be alive in us guiding us in the ways of justice and love. Amen.**

LESSON: Psalm 16

Good News Translation

- ☩ Protect me, O God; I trust in you for safety. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; all the good things I have come from you."
- ☩ **How excellent are the LORD's faithful people! My greatest pleasure is to be with them.**
- ☩ You, LORD, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands.
How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are!
I praise the LORD, because he guides me, and in the night my conscience warns me.
I am always aware of the LORD's presence; he is near, and nothing can shake me.
And so I am thankful and glad, and I feel completely secure,
because you protect me from the power of death.
I have served you faithfully, and you will not abandon me to the world of the dead.
- ☩ **You will show me the path that leads to life; your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure forever.**

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. ³¹But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

P God, we are caught up in fears

C Of things known and unknown

P As the disciples huddled in a house, fearful after Christ’s death

C So we tend to lock our doors.

P We forget that when we lock our doors, nothing can enter

C Neither the bad nor the good.

P But Perfect Love doesn’t need a door -

C Christ has appeared among us, even so!

P Into our darkest, most fearful places

C Jesus has walked right in!

P Into our most doubtful moments

C Jesus has spoken Peace. (John 20:21)

P We saw in his wounds, the evidence of death and pain upon him,

C Our worst fears realized in his flesh.

P What we learned is that our worst fears are not the end:

C Life has overcome death;

P Joy has overcome pain;

C Love has overcome fear. (1 John 4:18)

P The one who went before us, straight into the heart of darkness --

C The Risen Christ has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

P Breathe upon us, Lord Christ:

C The breath of hope and peace,

P The breath of Perfect Love,

C The breath of the Spirit of God. (John 20:22)

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your 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:
- 5 And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

☛ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy," please respond, "hear our prayer."
The prayers are ended with these words, "With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,
we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord."
Please respond, "Amen."*

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING INVITATION

BENEDICTION

☞ May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☛ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives*

- 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.
- 3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, life eternal waits for you;
joined to Christ, your living head, where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a victor you shall stand.
- 5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain which our feebler voices raise:
Glory to our God above and on earth his peace and love!

DISMISSAL

☞ Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news.
Invite all to join in Jesus' pathway of joy and life. Alleluia!

☛ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!