



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
MISSION FESTIVAL
Pax Worship Service
April 16, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We gather today still in the glow of the most joyous and amazing celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from the dead. The sights and sounds of that celebration linger in our memory, not as just a past event finished and forgotten, but as Peter calls it today, “a living hope,” as enduring and strong as the certainty of our living Lord and the promised future of our own resurrection. We return to continue the Easter celebration because in the afterglow of the days since Easter Sunday, many still do not know that hope. Like the absent apostle Thomas, we still face what seems to be a hopeless world. Today we remember that our only hope is built on a divine Savior whose crucifixion wounds were endured for us and for all. Indeed, we are to learn that every Sunday throughout the entire year is an Easter celebration as our living Lord draws us into His holy, life-giving wounds through His very same body and blood given us in Holy Communion. Thomas saw and believed. Peter rejoiced. Though we do not now see Him, “you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8), the only sure and living hope.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

“Cornerstone”

Verse: My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus’ name. (Repeat)

Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior’s love. Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

Verse: When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor

holds within the veil. My anchor holds within the veil. (Chorus)

He is Lord, Lord of all. (Chorus twice)

Verse: When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found. Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless stand before the throne.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That victory remains ours by a God-given faith and hope. That hope is kept alive as we daily repent of our sins and remain in the promises of God. For, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **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 are afraid of losing hope. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead for the life of the world, 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.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus

Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ **WORD** ☩

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Acts 5:29-42

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." 33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 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. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 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. 37 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. 38 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; 39 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, 40 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. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:3-9

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

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

“Holy Spirit”

**Verse 1 There's nothing worth more That could ever come close
 No thing can compare, You're our living hope Your presence
Lord**

**Verse 2 I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves Where my heart
 becomes free And my shame is undone Your presence Lord**

***Chorus Holy Spirit You are welcome here Come flood this place and
 fill the atmosphere Your glory God is what our hearts long for***

*To be overcome by Your presence Lord Your presence Lord
(repeat verse 1, 2, chorus)*

Bridge **Let us become more aware of Your presence Let us
experience the glory of Your goodness (bridge X4)**

End **Holy Spirit You are welcome here Come flood this place and
fill the atmosphere Your glory God is what our hearts long
for To be overcome by Your presence Lord**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

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

People: **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹ 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,^[a] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,^[b] was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY *“Living Hope”*

Verse 1 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

Verse 2 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

Chorus 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 (X2)

Verse 3 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 (X2)

 Jesus Yours is the victory!

Chorus (X2) Jesus Christ, my living hope! God, You are my living hope!

MISSION PRESENTATION

Mr. Gary Thies
Mission Development Counselor
Nebraska District, LCMS

THE OFFERING (*baskets will be passed*)

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

“RESURRECTION POWER”

Verse 1 You called me from the grave by name You called me out of
all my shame I see the old has passed away, the new has come

Chorus Now I have resurrection power living on the inside Jesus, You
have given us freedom No longer bound by sin and darkness
Living in the light of Your goodness You have given us
freedom

Verse 2 I'm dressed in Your royalty, Your Holy Spirit lives in me I
see my past has been redeemed, the new has come (*Chorus*)

Bridge Freedom, You have given us freedom, You have given us
freedom. My chains are gone Freedom, You have given us
freedom, You have given us freedom. Hallelujah (*bridge X2*)
(*Chorus X2*)

Tag I have resurrection power, living on the inside Living on the
inside, no longer bound by sin and darkness You have given
us freedom, You have given us freedom

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*found inside back cover of the hymnal*)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG *“We Believe”*

Verse **In this time of desperation, when all we know is doubt and
 fear. There is only one foundation: we believe, we believe. In
this broken generation, when all is dark You help us see.
There is only one salvation, we believe, we believe.**

Chorus **We believe in God, the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He’s givin’ us new life. We
believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered
death. We believe in the resurrection, and He’s comin’ back
again. We believe.**

Verse **Let our faith be more than anthems, Greater than the songs
we song. And in our weakness and temptations, we believe.
We believe! (Chorus)**

Bridge **Let the lost be found and the dead be raised in the here and
 now let love invade. Let the church live loud; our God will
say, “we believe, we believe.” And the gates of hell will not
prevail for the power of God has torn the veil. Now we know
Your love will never fail. We believe, we believe.**

Chorus **We believe in God, the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He’s givin’ us new life. We
believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered
death. We believe in the resurrection, and He’s comin’ back,
 He’s comin’ back again. He’s comin’ back again. We
believe, we believe.**

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRUCE

On Easter Sunday we returned to the historical practice of passing Offering Baskets during church. Your heartfelt Weekly Financial Support of Zion Church and School is necessary now more than ever, as our congregation continues to be confronted by the rising ministry expenses.

Please remember that even when you are absent from worship, ministry expenses continue. Please prayerfully consider keeping current with your Weekly Offering for the Lord's Work here at Zion. Regular online giving is one tool that can help tremendously in this task. Check the Zion website www.zionlutheranpierce.com for more information. You can also set up weekly/monthly direct deposit offerings through your local bank. Contact your bank for help and more information.

Please also remember and take to heart the words of St. Paul as they are found in 1 Corinthians 16.

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”