



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MISSION FESTIVAL**  
**Traditional 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 HYMN**

*“Jesus Shall Reign”*

**#832**

- 1        Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run;  
          His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and  
wane no more.**
  
- 2        To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His  
head; His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning  
sacrifice.**
  
- 3        People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest  
song; And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His    name.**

4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns; The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains, The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King; Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

### INVOCATION

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

People: (sing) 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: (sing) Amen.

## **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: **(sing) Amen.**

## **EPISTLE**

*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.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 20:19-31*

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

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

<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,<sup>[a]</sup> 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 any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **ZION CHOIR**

K-8<sup>th</sup> grade

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *"On Galilee's High Mountain"*    #835 vs. 1,2,5,6

**On Galilee's high mountain Christ gave the command In words of strength and promise Which all can understand; "All pow'r to Me is given To do what I shall choose; Therefore I send My children, Their witness I will use."**

**The Lord who, born of Mary, Came down as man and died, Who preached to all who listened, For us was crucified- This Lord, our living brother, In pow'r at God's right hand, Has chosen us to carry His truth to ev'ry land.**

**That ev'ryone He chooses, For reasons of His own, Will find in Christ his calling To live His love alone. His presence always leads us Till time no more shall be; Christ's strength, His love, His comfort Give us His victory.**

**△ Lord, gather all Your children, Wherever they may be, And lead them on to haven to live eternally With You, our loving Father, And Christ, our brother dear, Whose Spirit guards and gives us The joy to persevere.**

**MISSION PRESENTATION**

Mr. Gary Thies  
Mission Development Counselor  
Nebraska District, LCMS

**THE OFFERING** (*baskets will be passed*)

5/6<sup>th</sup> handbells

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

***"We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781vs1,6***

***We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be: What e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.***

**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:** **(sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

***"O Christ Our True and Only Light"***

**#839**

1        **O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.**

2        **Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's  
maze; Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion        haunts  
and blinds.**

3        **O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav'nly  
rest.**

4        **Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to Your  
fold. Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting  
heart,**

5        **That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks  
adore And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth  
and heav'n.**

**7/8<sup>th</sup> handbells**

**SILENT PRAYER**

## ***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 Chuch 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](http://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.”***