
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

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The Second Sunday of Easter

God's Gift Service T April 19, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

God Gathers Us in His Name

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn:

“This Joyful Eastertide”

LSB # 482

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
Has sprung to life this mor - row:
Refrain
Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!



2. Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver:
Refrain.

3. My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number:
Refrain.

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain • Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen • But now has Christ arisen!

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God's Gift of Forgiveness

*As God gathers us in worship today the only thing we are able to give Him is our sins,
and out of undeserved love for us God gives us forgiveness.*

*King David wrote in the Psalms: "I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD'
— and You, [O God,] forgave the guilt of my sin."*

Psalm 32:5b NIV

P With the Psalmist we say, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

P If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared."

Psalm 130:1-4 NIV

P Let us each silently reflect for a moment on our sinfulness, on any particular sins that may be weighing heavily on our minds and hearts, and on the gracious invitation of God's Word.

(A time of Silent reflection)

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have daily sinned against You. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts, words, and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. Forgive me when I live with my mind and heart set on the things of the world, things appealing to my sinful nature, rather than things of Your Spirit. Forgive me when I live enslaved by a fear of death rather than living fearlessly, trusting that Jesus has destroyed death through His own death and resurrection. In the name of Jesus, Your Son and my Savior, I ask forgiveness, Father. Deliver and restore me that I may live in peace with You.

P I have great Good News! Through His holy life and innocent death on the cross, Jesus has satisfied the holy demands of God's Law and has earned forgiveness and eternal life for us. He desires that this gift be delivered to all people. For He told His disciples on Easter evening, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. ... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:21,23 NIV

P Therefore, in the stead and by this command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and as the called and ordained servant of the Word in this place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P You are forgiven! You are set free! You are dearly loved children of God! Together you and I can now raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God for His tremendous grace. We can bring Him our fears and hopes, our needs and prayers, with all boldness and confidence as dear children do to their dear Father.

C Amen.

Our Praise in Response to God's Forgiveness:

“You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

Chris Tomlin

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken • I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well • Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again
(repeat)

Amazing love, how can it be • That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, and I know it's true • That it's my joy to honor You
In all I do • To honor You

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken • I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well • Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be • That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, and I know it's true • That it's my joy to honor You
In all I do • To honor You
In all I do • To honor You

You are my king • You are my king
Jesus, You are my king • You are my king

Amazing love, how can it be • That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, and I know it's true • That it's my joy to honor You
(repeat)

In all I do • To honor You
In all I do • To honor You
In all I do, let me honor You

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God's Gift of His Word

By ourselves we are spiritually dead.

By our own efforts we are unable to create or sustain a relationship with God.

However, out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive.

He creates and sustains a relationship with us by way of His Word, the Word of Jesus:

*“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God.”*

— 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

First Reading:

Acts 5:12-42

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together [in the Temple] in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside."

Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

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

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 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. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 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. 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. 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; 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, 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. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

1 Peter 1:1-9

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter writes:]

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

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

P This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

John 20:19-31

ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John writes:]

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, [the day that Jesus rose from the dead,] 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." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee"

Public Domain: LSB # 607

Sung to the tune of LSB # 555 "Salvation unto Us Has Come."

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation; Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication. If Thou rememb' rest ev'ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win Or stand before Thy presence?	2. Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression; The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression. Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand And live alone by mercy.
3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit; It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit That He is merciful and just; This is my comfort and my trust. His help I wait with patience.	4. And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken, My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken. O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word, Now wait for His appearing.

5. Though great our sins, yet greater still
Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

— A Hymn by Martin Luther

Sermon:

John 20:23

"Jesus said, 'Whosoever Sins You Forgive, They Are Forgiven!'"

Apostles' Creed

P We confess our Christian faith with the words of the 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.

Our Prayers in Response to God's Word

The prayers, silent or spoken, will be prayed now. Each prayer will end with:

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your loving hands, dear Lord, we place everyone and everything for which we've prayed. We trust You to answer our prayers according to Your mercy in the way that is best for us. We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Our Offerings in Response to God's Word

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
so that you through His poverty might become rich. ...*

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

– 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15 NIV

You are encouraged to continue regularly giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord either online at www.molcs.org/church or by mailing them to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines IA 50310 or bringing them to one of our drive through Communion services.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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.

Collect Prayer of the Day

P We join in the Collect Prayer of the Day:

C 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. Amen.

Final Prayer

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, grant
that our lips which have here sung Your praise may now glorify You in the world;
that our ears which have heard the voice of our Shepherd through Your Word
may now be closed to the clamorous voice of Satan and the world;
that our eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope;
that our tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth; and
that we may be fully restored to newness of life
through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give T you His peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Closing Song: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB # 803

1. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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Announcements and Postlude

T T T

As you leave His Service today,
*God wants you to be assured that ALL your sins have been forgiven
and that He has declared you to be His holy, beloved child,
an heir of an eternal, never-ending relationship with Him.*

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T T T

“Therefore, I urge you brothers [and sisters,] in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

– *Romans 12:1-2 NIV*

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