



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

Thought for the Day before Worship

No locked doors, not even the locked doors of our hearts, can keep Jesus from entering to offer his peace, invite us to mission, reassure our doubts.

*We may be sure he accepts us as he finds us,
but will also lead us where we never imagined we would go.*

Welcome

Prelude

*“Ariasa”
(Kendra Abner ~ Flute)*

(J.S. Bach)

Introit

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

L: The world is shaken, the stone rolled away, the tomb empty!
Christ is risen!

M: The power of God is revealed; death is defeated, and life is affirmed.

L: Fear is vanquished, and joy reborn!

M: Christ is risen indeed!

L: Nothing remains the same, for it is the season of Easter!
Lift up your hearts and voices, and praise the name of Jesus,
our risen Lord!

M: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us together Worship our God with joy and thanksgiving!!

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

We bless you, Holy God, as you bless us with this new day. Help us to lay down our burdens, the fears that hold us back from doing the hard work of being your servants in this world. Guide our hearts so that our faith will grow, helped along rather than nagged by the doubts and fears we all experience. Give comfort to those lost in their doubts now and show them the path that leads to a life of joy and comfort in your presence.

God, we are people full of doubts, worries, and concerns. We constantly see evidence that seductively testifies against the salvation that Christ brought into this world. The violence and death we witness on a daily basis leave us doubtful that a peaceable kingdom can ever come to pass. Forgive us for our doubts, Holy God, and help us to use those doubts to deepen our faith. We know that nothing good in this world will come to pass unless we put aside our fears and act bravely, testifying to the love and grace you came to bring us all. Thank you for our doubts, God, and help us use them to deepen our faith and deepen our commitment to being your servants in this world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Hear the Good News! In the presence of the risen Christ we are changed. By the power of forgiveness, we are raised from guilt and shame to freedom and joy. The old life dissolves into the new; the old world moves toward the new creation God has shown to be possible in Christ. Thanks and praise be to God for the miracle of Easter! Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

M: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the History of the New Testament: Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Anthem

"A Jubilant Song"

(Allen Pote)

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Rejoice and sing, and let the earth be glad,
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.
Sing alleluia to the Lord, Alleluia!
Tell of His salvation from day to day.
Shout His marvelous works among the people,
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born,
From age to age You are God, and we pray for the coming of Your kingdom.
We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives.

Scripture Lesson

From the Letters to the Church: 1 John 1:1-2:2

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Offertory Invitation

How amazing are the works of God! By God's mercy, we are alive; in God's presence, we are filled with hope. One way to pass on the gift is to share our material wealth, which God entrusts to us. As we offer our substance to be blessed in service to the risen Christ, let us rededicate ourselves as well.

Offertory

“Celebrate the Joy” (Joseph M. Martin)

Celebrate the joy of the Lord with glad singing
Magnify the Lord on high
Celebrate the joy of the Lord with glad music.
Lift up your voice to the sky. Lift praises on high.
Let ev’ry alleluia be raised. Give to the Lord the honor and praise.
Shout to the world His glorious name,
for great are the works of the Lord, our God.
Gloria, Gloria, Deo. Alleluia
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heav’nly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Let ev’ry alleluia you sing glorify God and honor the King.
This is the day for praises to ring,
for great are the works of the Lord, our God.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon “Reason and the Risen Christ” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Hymn “*The Day of Resurrection*” (Lancashire)
(see next page)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude “*Psalm XIX*” (Marcello)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer
Liturgist: Tom Williams
Organist: Michael Sullivan
Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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The Day of Resurrection!

C F/C C C/Bb F/A C/G F G

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!

G7 C C7 F/C C G/D D7 G

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

G7 C7 F A7/E D7 G

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;

G/F C/E Dm7/F C7/G F/A F C/G G7 G C

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.