



The Season of Easter

Gathering

Prelude "All Glory Be to God on High" Timothy Albrecht

Opening Hymn

477

Let Every Tongue Confess

Descant

5 Let ev - ery tongue con-fess with one ac - cord—

1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, _____
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought; _____
3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, _____
4 Where - fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou _____
5 Let ev - ery tongue con-fess with one ac - cord _____

Je - sus Christ is Lord;

1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine, _____
2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought; _____
3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free, _____
4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now, _____
5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; _____

and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.

1 that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine. _____
2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought. _____
3 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry. _____
4 and given the Name to which all knees shall bow. _____
5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored. _____

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)

Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

10 10 10 with Alleluia

All standing, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

188

Love's Redeeming Work Is Done

1 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?
 3 Soar we now where Christ has led, fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head;

Death in vain for - bids him rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once he died our souls to save, where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
 made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Savannah, from *Harmonia Sacra*, ca. 1760

77. 77

Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Readings

The First Reading: Acts 4:32–35

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Reading: 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

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 – 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 – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

LEVAS 43

Because He Lives

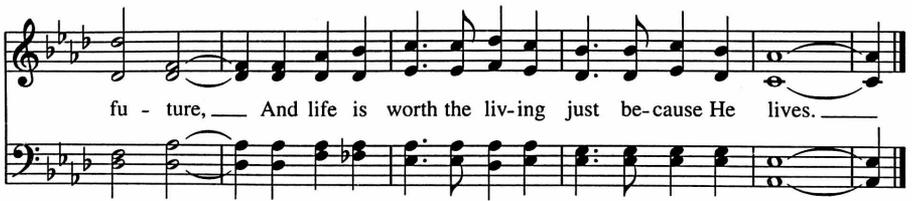
1. God sent His Son, — they called Him Je - sus; — He came to love, —
 2. How sweet to hold — a new-born ba - by, — And feel the pride, —
 3. And then one day — I'll cross the riv - er; — I'll fight life's fi -

1. — heal, and for - give; — He lived and died — to buy my
 2. — and joy he gives; — But great - er still — the calm as -
 3. - nal war with pain; — And then as death — gives way to

1. par - don, — An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives. —
 2. sur - rance, — This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He lives. —
 3. vic - t'ry, — I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know He lives. —

Be - cause He lives — I can face to - mo - row; — Be - cause He lives —

— all fear is gone; — Be - cause I know — He holds the



Words: Gloria Gaither (b. 1942) and William Gaither (b. 1936)
Music: William Gaither (b. 1936)
Copyright © 1971 William J. Gaither. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

The Gospel: John 20:19–31



Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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.”

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.” 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.” 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 come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,

which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant: Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

People: We believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We 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.*

Officiant: May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Reader: We open our hearts and minds and pray to you God. We pray for the church around the world, may we find we are sisters and brothers and stop finding what divides us. We pray especially for _____.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for this nation and all the nations of the world that they may consider the common good and hold up the least of these.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for those whose lives have been touched by violence and angry, hateful words. We ask you to remind us of your grace, mercy, and love for all you have created.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for you to hold these prayers for our communities and especially for the homeless and those who struggle.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We lift up to you the concerns of those here present and those not with us especially:

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We thank you for the beauty of your creation and all the blessings of this life. For those things which remind us of You.

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Reader: We ask for the comfort of those who grieve and peace to the departed (especially...)

[Please add your petitions.]

God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude with the following or some other suitable prayer:

Celebrant: God of love, our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your Church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Peace

The peace is exchanged:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

[Click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry by donating online.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

688

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederick Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46
 Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546);
 harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

87. 87. 66. 66. 7

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by

whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. ____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues:

Celebrant: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us

Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: The cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All: Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All: Blessed are you now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins - of the world: have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

321

My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick-ening grace, O Lord, in count - less
 4 Nor let thy spread-ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Issac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780;
 harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807); adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr. (1770-1843)

LM

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

St. Augustine's Prayer Book, p.192

Celebrant: Our Jesus, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. We love you above all things and we desire you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. As

though you were already there, we embrace you and unite ourselves wholly to you; never permit us to be separated from you. *Amen.*

Prayer after Communion

After communion, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past;
What we shall be, through you, still awaits us.
Lead us on. Take us with you. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Celebrant: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

180

He Is Risen, He Is Risen!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "He Is Risen, He Is Risen!". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. Below the treble staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part: 1 (Soprano), 2 (Alto), *3 (Tenor), and 4 (Bass). The lyrics are: 1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with; 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and; *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -; 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened.

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - dant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - jice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.
 Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

87. 87. 77

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

People: Thanks be to God. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude "I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"

Wilbur Held

Servers

Priest-in-Charge

Reader

Host

Organist

Choir Director

Ministry Intern

Rev. Annette Joseph

Griffin King

Monica Waldon

Mary Miller

Randyn Heisserer-Miller

Joshua Smith

Music reprint & broadcast licensing:

OneLicense A-705012

Notes on the Service

The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32–35 • Ps. 133 • 1 Jn. 1:1 – 2:2 • John 20:19–31

Every year for the Sunday after Easter Day the Gospel reading is the story of Doubting Thomas, so this Sunday is often called Thomas Sunday, or else Low Sunday in contrast with the calendar's highest feast, Easter Day.

Today's collect, adapted from an 8th century prayer, reminds us that Christ died and rose during the Jewish Passover holidays, thereby establishing "the new covenant of reconciliation," to perfect the old covenant established at the first Passover, when Israelites were freed from slavery. "Reborn into the fellowship..." alludes to Easter-time baptisms; "fellowship of Christ's body..." echoes today's readings from Acts and I John.

During Eastertide, first readings are from the Acts rather than from the Hebrew Bible. Today's passage reports that the earliest believers in the Jerusalem church were so unified that they practiced community of possessions. We do not know for how long that communism persisted, nor why the church abandoned it. In the 3rd century, monks revived communalism.

"Of one heart and soul" was an ideal not only of the Jerusalem church, but also of today's Psalm 113. A modern Jewish commentator, Robert Alter, calls this psalm an "idyll celebrating harmonious life together in a fruitful land." In ancient Mediterranean societies, rubbing fragrant olive oil on the hair and body was a feature of comfortable living. In v 4, the Prayer Book psalter follows the Hebrew text, translating that the dew of Hermon falls on the "hills of Zion," a geographic impossibility, for Mt. Hermon is about 60 miles north of the hills of Zion, and dew does not fall that way. Alter corrects two Hebrew letters to read that the dew falls upon "the *parched* hills."

Epistles from now until Pentecost will be from a letter by the John who wrote the Gospel according to John, or by some member of his circle. The book is an extended meditation on the love of God. It opens with the author's testimony that he, like Thomas in today's Gospel, has touched the Word of Life. Today's excerpt ends with a sentence which is one of the "comfortable words" in the Rite One Eucharist, "If any man sin, we have an advocate..."

John describes how, on Easter night, the risen Christ had appeared to his disciples, and had given them his Spirit to absolve. (Luke dated the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost, seven weeks later.) At an appearance on the following Sunday, the group includes a skeptical Thomas who had not seen the risen One earlier. Now, having touched Jesus' scars, Thomas confesses Christ's divinity. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" is Jesus' last beatitude. That is the reason for John's having written: "to declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father," as the Epistle put it.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Saint Louis, Missouri