



Doubting Thomas, Mattia Preti, 1660, Vienna, Kunsthistorischen Museum

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church
April 11, 2021

The Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 11, 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

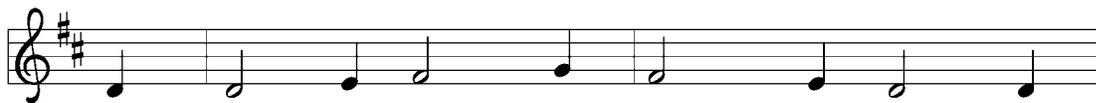
The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ lay in death's bonds), BWV 625
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Christ lag in Todesbanden, Luther's adaptation of the Roman Easter Sequence, is one of the quintessential Lutheran Easter Chorales. Bach's setting from his Orgelbüchlein is brief, but joyful and powerful, celebrating Christ's victory over death. Octave leaps in the pedal convey the Affekt perfectly, brilliantly illuminating the "Alleluia" that closes each verse of the chorale.



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

A reading from Acts.

³²Now 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. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There 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. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 133

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.

How good and how pleas-ant it is to
live to-geth-er in u - ni - ty.

Psalm 133:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 1996 Augsburg Fortress

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹How good and how pleas- | ant it is,
when kindred live togeth- | er in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- | on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down
upon the collar | of his robe. REFRAIN**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the | hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for- | evermore. **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

A reading from First John.

¹We 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—²this 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—³we 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. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This 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. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but 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. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

The assembly sings the acclamation before and after the verse of the day.



Cantor: Blessed are those who | have not seen*
and yet have come | to believe. (John 20:29)

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

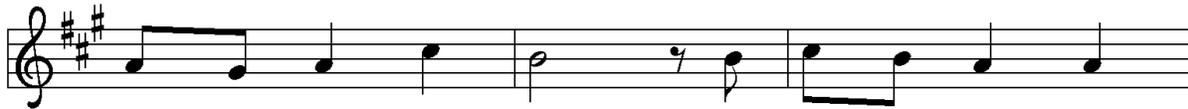
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

God of light, in you there is no darkness. Lead your church to walk in your light, that it may live and work together in unity and fellowship. In the measure it does this, it carries out your purpose in our disjointed and discordant world. Grant the church great power in its testimony.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, we rejoice that the Easter dawn makes every day new. Continue to bless us in our worship, and in our daily lives. Strengthen us to overcome the fear of uncertainty, and keep us from despair in our aloneness. You are our strength and shield.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord of all, we see your presence in the sustaining goodness of your creation; in the fruitfulness of the earth to provide what is needed for life. Bless those who work in agriculture, and help us to ensure that all people share the earth's bounty.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, much of the world is locked in unbelief. Let this Easter season be a time of renewal and revival throughout the world. Shine your light into the hearts of the leaders of the nations, that justice and peace may prevail. Bring people safely through conflicts that turn violent; make us bold to stand with the oppressed. Let compassion and generosity lead your people to share with those whose needs are safety and security.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Word of Life, we rejoice in your loving care for us, but there are many who need to feel your healing touch. With your great grace surround caregivers and medical personnel and help them mend wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again in body and mind. Comfort the grieving, the dying and the chronically ill. Bring relief from pain and hope of health restored.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In fellowship with you - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we rejoice in your promises. Touch us with your risen life, kindle our faith, and illumine our pilgrimage with hope that sees beyond our days on earth.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In peace let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

MEDITATION

Kevin Seal, piano

Prelude in C sharp Minor, Op. 45
Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

The Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 45 (sometimes listed as Prelude No. 25 as a reference to Chopin's famous 24 preludes), was composed in 1841. It was dedicated to Princess E. Czernicheff, and contains widely extended bass tones and highly expressive and effective chromatic modulations over a somewhat uniform thematic basis.

COMMISSION

Concluding announcements and ministry opportunities.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952

Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949

Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Saraband (For the morning of Easter)
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

A sarabande is a French courtly dance from the Baroque period. It is a slower, often somber dance in triple time with the emphasis on the second beat of each measure. Many composers from the Baroque to present day have used the dance form in their musical compositions. This particular sarabande, by English composer Herbert Howells and labelled "For the morning of Easter" is equal parts regal and joyful, beginning declamatory and bold, then moving towards quiet contemplation before building to a thrilling conclusion.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Chris Alexander, Lector
Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister
Eric Holtan, Cantor
Kevin Seal, Organist