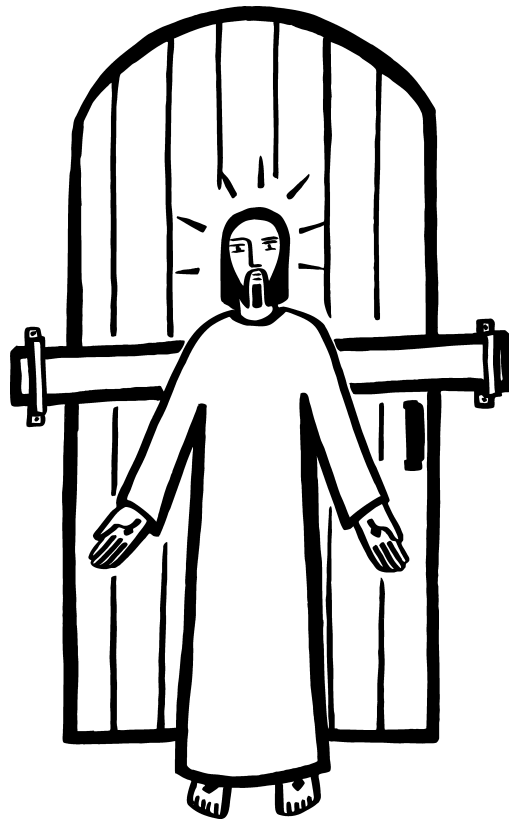


*2nd Sunday of Easter*  
*Adaptive Worship Service*  
*April 19, 2020*



1812 North Highland Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33755  
Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

727-446-5026  
[office@GraceCLW.com](mailto:office@GraceCLW.com)  
Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

## ADAPTIVE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### GATHERING SONG

### *Thine is the Glory*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes

*Refrain*  
where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The fourth staff is a refrain, marked with a double bar line and the word 'Refrain' above it. The fifth staff continues the melody with lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Worship Leader: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Introduction to the Lesson: *This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surrounding.*

3 Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, 4 and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. 5 They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

6 Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. 7 Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, 9 because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

### **John 20:19-31**

Introduction to the Gospel: *The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord Jesus is risen!*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to John in the 20th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

19 It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 20 After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” 22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

30 In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. 31 But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

### **A Rip in the Seams**

Rather than saddling him with a disgraced reputation and besmirching his character by dubbing him “the great doubter,” would it not be nearer the truth to reconsider and rightly recognize Thomas as a “most sincere believer”?

It was an easy and unsurprising move for Jesus' disciples to seize upon the idea that following their Nazarene teacher would make them great. After all, nothing and no one seemed able to put a stranglehold on his triumphs: not hunger, disease, or storm; neither demons nor priests. He was God-sent, God-empowered, God-blessed.

But there was a rip in the seams that held all the pieces of those disciples' gathered hopes together: Jesus' unstoppable talk of least and last, served and suffering, freeing and forgiving, dying and departing.

So, when their imagination of who God is and how God acts failed them; when priests and courts condemned and soldiers killed their would-be king, Jesus; when Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped his body and buried his corpse, and Mary Magdalene's unimaginable announcement, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18), left them doubtful and frightened—they locked their doors. The Lord they imagined—the way of God they had hoped for—was dead.

If Jesus' miraculous entry somehow through closed and bolted doors and his spoken word first revived the doubting disciples' faith, it happened differently for Thomas, who was not with them. The disciples reported to him what had happened, choosing the same words spoken by Mary Magdalene that, just days before, had left them doubtful: "We have seen the Lord" (John 20:25). Courageously honest, inviting pious disrepute through the ages, Thomas dared to say that he believed Jesus' own predictive words about serving and suffering, dying and departing. Thomas trusted that the Christ would bear the marks, embody the scars, and retain the wounds of an unimaginable God. A week later, on seeing the risen Lord, Thomas's belief was confirmed. In sincere faith indeed he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Dona Nobis Pacem*

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3



Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need *especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Eliezar Granados, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, the family and friends of Phyllis Clark, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (especially the those impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, those in harm's way while serving in the military, as first responders, or in the medical field, those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children, and *those we name now with our lips or in our hearts*). Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way in facing the COVID-19 pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or (for now) by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. You can fill out your attendance form on our website as well.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and

what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

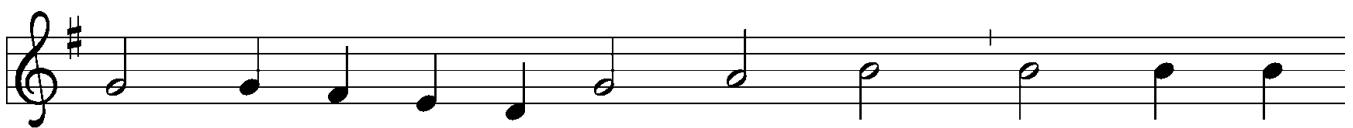
### BLESSING

Worship Leader: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

#### *Doxology*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all



crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now our service of worship has ended, and our service to the world begins! Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27824.

Scriptures and additional materials quoted are from the Good News Bible © 1994 published by the Bible Societies/HarperCollins Publishers Ltd UK, Good News Bible© American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used with permission.