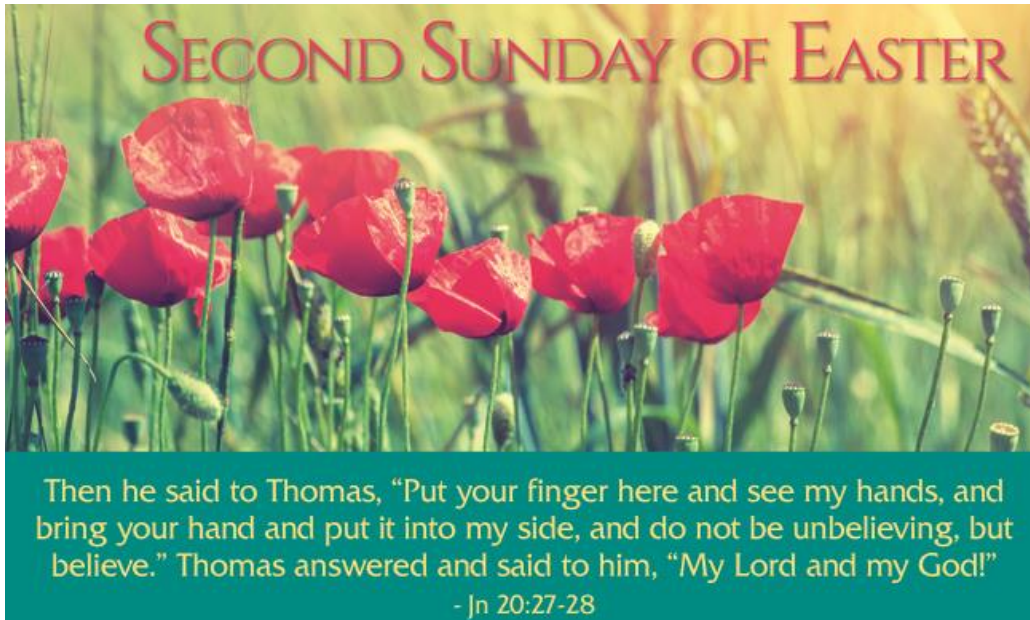


APRIL 19, 2020



A COVID EASTER LITANY

Verse 1 of 6

This year
we couldn't kneel down
and wash one another's feet
but parents kneel by the tub and wash their babies
before bed and pray for another day
and we wash our own hands lovingly, thoroughly
for our neighbors and strangers we will never meet.

Your Love always finds a way, O God. Alleluia!

GREETING Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],

²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

PSALM: Psalm 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me;**

because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! ELW #380 Verse 1



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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.

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.

REFLECTION

PRAYER: God of all times and places, you call your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. Amen. ¹

TEXT: A week ago, in our individual homes and in our individual ways, we celebrated the joys, the new life, the resurrection of Easter.

The story continues today in the gospel of John. In the story, the characters are still in the midst of the Easter miracle, the Easter discoveries.

Some of them are still living in the fear, anxiety, and grief of the crucifixion. That's where we find the disciples, gathered behind locked doors, in fear.

In conversation (on our adjoining lawns) yesterday, I found my next-door neighbor echoing that same attitude of fear. He was not cowering behind locked doors. Instead, his fear shows in his trepidation in visiting the grocery store: the mask, the cleanser, the gloves, the X's on the floor to keep 6' of distance from other shoppers. He's having a hard time living in this altered reality.

Jesus entered that room with the disciples in spite of their locks, in spite of their fear. Jesus enters our rooms today – in spite of our fear, in support of the love we hold for our neighbors.

¹¹ ELW Evening Prayer, pg. 317.

That is where we begin together today. Whether we wear our masks in fear of the virus, or in love for our neighbor, Jesus is with us today. Jesus says to us "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When Jesus says this to us, he breathes on us and says "Receive the Holy Spirit".

That was the experience, on that first Easter day, for 10 of the disciples. But Thomas was absent from that locked room. Thomas was the steadfast one who had urged the others to follow Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus, and on into Jerusalem. Yet, in this text today, in this visit from Jesus, Thomas was absent.

In my imaginings about this day, I see Thomas refusing the locked doors, and the fear. I see Thomas out and about, listening to the conversations on the street, checking the local news, scoping out ears and hearts eager to hear how the disciples will carry on the work of Jesus.

When Thomas returns to that locked room, I imagine his shock when he hears that Jesus has been in their midst. Imagine the questions in his mind: Jesus came here? But why not with me while I'm risking my life outside?

While I reject the negative label of "doubting Thomas", I can certainly see the anger, the frustration, and the challenge of Thomas to those in that locked room.

In many ways, I believe we are experiencing those same feelings along with Thomas: anger, frustration, and challenge. In the same way that Jesus came to Thomas in answer to his questions, Jesus comes, today, to us as well.

When Jesus comes, that second time, to the disciples and Thomas, it is Jesus who applies the word "doubt" to the myriad emotions that Thomas is carrying.

So, what about doubt? Is doubt a negative reaction? What role does doubt play in our lives of faith?

Doubt and faith are not opposites. If our faith is to grow, it travels with doubt, testing, testing, testing. As Christians we find that the more we travel in faith, the less we know for certain. To live as a Christian is to live with ambiguity, uncertainty – and doubt.

Faith and doubt travel as a necessary duet. Faith without doubt will yield a stagnant, inactive faith. Faith will keep doubt from dumping you into cynicism and despair. In turn, doubt will keep our faith from evolving into certainty, smugness and death.

Today, living in these new and challenging times, we live with Thomas and his questions. Even as Jesus responded to Thomas, so Jesus is with us and all of our faith and relationship questions.

Jesus enters into our lives when we least expect him, offers peace, gifts us with the breath of the Holy Spirit and sends us out to tell the story.

Jesus blesses all who struggle with their questions of faith. Jesus blesses all who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Christian faith is the only world religion that takes as its logo an emphatic symbol of death, the cross. And yet the central affirmation of Christianity is hopeful life. Jesus just keeps appearing -- again and again -- to unlock the barriers between faith and doubt, between life and death, between past and future, between fear and joy. Jesus keeps appearing, a dependable reminder of our relationship with our dependable God. That is the strength and the comfort in which we live, today, tomorrow and into eternity. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

CHOOSE YOUR OWN FAVORITE EASTER MUSIC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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, **hear our prayer.**

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. (*Here other worldwide ministries may be named.*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith. Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

OFFERING HYMN

"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! ELW #380 Verse 4
(*scroll up to page 3*)

*As you are able, please contribute to the ministries of King of Kings
through the donate button on the website: <http://www.koklutheran.org/>*

or by mail (King of Kings Lutheran Church 5501 SE Thiessen Road, Milwaukie, OR 97267)

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Strengthen us with your joy for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the joy filled good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Prayers & Thanksgivings

Friends & family of William Dodge *Son of Jim & Ondrea Grey*

Laurel Grimsted & Celeste Bullock *Greg Peterson's sister, and her daughter who is an
RN responsible for the ward that has had 10 deaths from COVID19;
She just tested positive for COVID19*

Joe Watson *Former member, recovering at OHSU from Covid-19; still testing
positive after 4 weeks*

Lou Freauff *Recovery from cataract surgery*

Don Adamson *For continuing dialysis treatment*

Rory Fitzgerald *and all houseless people*

Selma Eckert *Resting peacefully at home*

LaVern Mortensen *Continuing recovery from broken elbow*

Mike Brooks *Continuing mesothelioma treatment*

Carolyn Potter *Multiple health concerns, for successful dialysis treatment*

JR Potter *Life threatening autoimmune disorder*