

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet
Have Believed

Toward the Forgiveness of Sin

April 11, 2021



AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, “My Lord and my God!” Though Easter is a season and not merely a Sunday, it can be hard to sustain the enthusiasm when attendance drops on “low Sunday.” That said, the source of our joy is not in the size of the crowd but the greatness of the gift that Christ has given us. We have the forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness for our sins, there is also life and salvation. We are held captive to fear, to the guilt of our sin, and to the power of death until Christ enters our locked rooms, shows Himself to us, and we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, rejoice in our Lord and God.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to help us to read the Scriptures with the same mind that you read them to the disciples on the way to Emmaus. In the light of the Word, written in the Bible, you helped them to discover the presence of God in the disturbing events of your sentence and death. Thus, the cross that seemed to be the end of all hope became for them the source of life and of resurrection. Create in us silence so that we may listen to your voice in Creation and in the Scriptures, in events and in people, above all in the poor and suffering. May your word guide us so that we too, like the two disciples from Emmaus, may experience the force of your resurrection and witness to others that you are alive in our midst as source of fraternity, justice and peace. We ask this of you, Jesus, son of Mary, who revealed to us the Father and sent us your Spirit. Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE: Welcome, Members and Friends. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! What a joy to continue our celebration of the empty tomb of our Lord and Savior! Every Sunday is a mini-Easter celebration. Let our gladness in a living resurrected Jesus know no end. Hear the story! Tell the Story! And, rejoice in Christ's promise, "Because He Live, you will live also."

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:6–10*

Pastor: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

People: we lie and do not practice the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: If we say we have not sinned,

People: we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" TLH 193 Sts. 1&4

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Sons of man and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and, earth, reply.

4 Lives again our glorious King; Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O Grave?

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 4:32–35* (The believers were of one heart and soul.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

EPISTLE *1 John 1:1–2:2* (If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

Leader: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:19–31* (Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SOLO

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SERMON

SOLO

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(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)

CREED Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Merciful Father, at Your bidding we come to You in prayer, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested.

Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in You we may know the full comfort of Your gracious presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Deliver us from pride and humble us by Your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Make Your Church bold in the confession of Your name before the world and give Your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Restore those absent too long from the Church's sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Accept the praise and thanksgiving of our lips, the tithes and offerings we bring, and our labors for Your glory, that we not suffer from ingratitude or the pride that believes all we have is the fruit of our own work. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Remembering blessed Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant our supplication.

Leader: Grant to us that we may worthily receive this blessed Sacrament of Your Son's body and blood and may confidently trust that You will both hear and answer the prayers of Your people and supply us with all good things according to Your merciful favor; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.



PEACE

be with you