

**April 16, 2023**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **Whose Resurrection Is It?**

It is not just Jesus who gets his life back on Easter. On Easter evening, the frightened, grief-stricken, locked away disciples get Jesus back, and through his presence and his words to them, they get their own lives back as well. "Peace be with you," he says.

Thomas misses all this. The others say to him, "We have seen the Lord." Yet Thomas can only visualize something else: all those puncture wounds.

The horrible has a way of pushing everything else out of our consciousness. When we are going through something dreadful, it is nearly always the only thing we can think about. It is all we can picture.

Thomas knows what happened to Jesus on Good Friday. It is easy to imagine that when Thomas closes his eyes, he sees Jesus as he last saw him. Thomas sees the cross, the nails, the body writhing there for hours and then horribly still. Thomas sees this, knows it, believes it in his bones. Whether he wants to believe something else is beside the point. He knows what he saw.

Yet, in spite of what Thomas has seen and regardless of what Thomas believes, Jesus is alive. He is alive, which means he is able to get to Thomas--and to us--no matter what horrors of the past rise up behind our eyelids. Just as Jesus found a way through those locked doors on Easter evening, so one week later, he finds a way to pry open the grip that Good Friday has on his friend, Thomas.

What's more, when Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe," he is promising that Thomas is not the last to get his life back as a result of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is still alive, and still finding ways to welcome his own into a future that our past had given us no reason to expect.

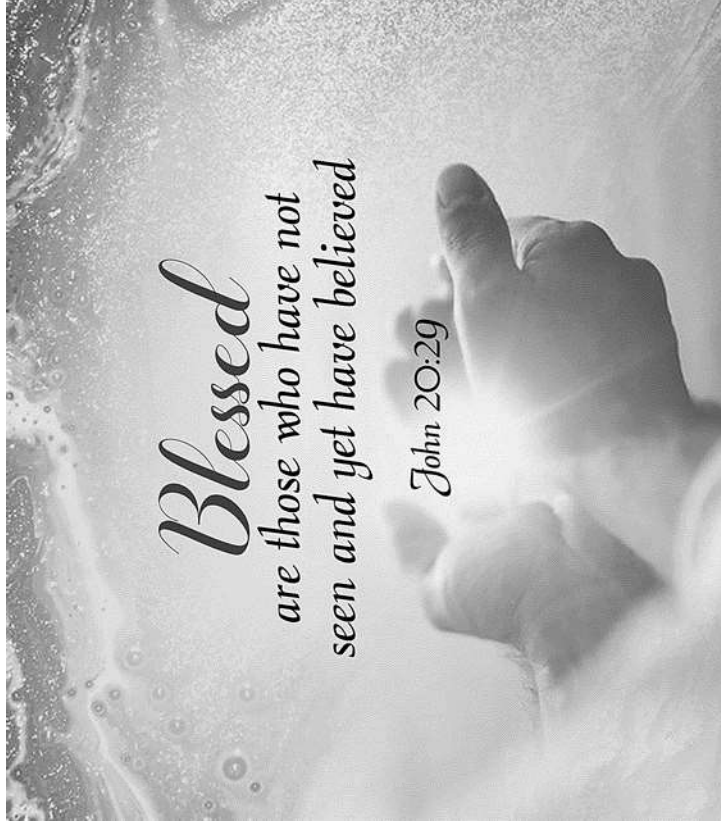
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister  
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**April 16, 2023 - 10:30 am**

**April 16, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

- 8:00 am Early Worship
- 9:15 am Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
- 9:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 am Late Worship
- 11:30 am 2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

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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.

**Blessing**

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.  
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" No. 545

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Nancy Russell

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**ACOLYTES**

Mckenna Cummerow, Kaylee King

**READER**

Tom Hartford

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

<sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>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."

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

### **Gospel Response**

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Pastor Rayl

No. 597

### **The Offering**

#### **Offertory Music**

Nancy Russell

(Please stand)

#### **Offering Prayer**

**P:** Our generous heavenly Father, all good gifts come from you and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need, through our resurrected and living Lord, Jesus Christ.

**C:** Amen.

#### **Pastoral Prayer** (Each petition concludes with this response)

**P:** God in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

#### **The Lord's Prayer** (prayed by all)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am**

Prelude

Nancy Russell

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" No. 363

### **Rite of Baptism**

See insert

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us share the peace of the Lord.

### **Passing of the Peace**

*The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, "Peace be with you."*

*We conclude the passing of the peace by singing:*

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" No. 365, v. 1, 2, & 4

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray. 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.

**C:** Amen.

(Please be seated)

### **Announcements**

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

*After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the 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 quotes Psalm 16:8-11 to show that Jesus is the Messiah: Though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the people:

<sup>22</sup>"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--<sup>23</sup>this 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. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*Peter wrote to encourage Christians who were suffering for their faith. He begins by praising God for the resurrection of Jesus, which produces hope, both then and now.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 20.

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

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

*One week after Easter, Christ still comes to those who believe in him: he seeks any who may have missed his offer of peace and life through his resurrection.*

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.

<sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,  
<sup>1</sup>I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.  
<sup>29</sup>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.  
<sup>30</sup>Since 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. Foreseeing this,  
David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'  
<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 16**

*In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)*

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
<sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you."  
<sup>3</sup>As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones  
in whom is all my delight.  
<sup>4</sup>Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.  
<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.  
<sup>7</sup>I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
<sup>8</sup>I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.  
<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.  
<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.