

A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a valley. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds that are illuminated from below. In the foreground, there are purple flowers, possibly lavender, in sharp focus. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

1 PETER 1:3-9

Christ-
Our Enduring Hope

THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 19, 2020

PREPARING TO COME INTO GOD’S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – S. Walters

Sanctuary Choir

To listen click <https://bit.ly/2xFIrA2>

1. *Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!*
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. *But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!*
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
3. *Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!*
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

WELCOME

GREETING OF PEACE

*All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,”
as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)
Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.*

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Hallelujah/Your Love is Amazing – B. Doerksen/B. Brown

1. Your love is amazing,
steady and unchanging,
Your love is a mountain
firm beneath my feet;
Your love is a mystery,
how you gently lift me
when I am surrounded,
Your love carries me: *Refrain*

Refrain

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing;
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
Your love makes me sing...

2. Your love is surprising,
I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing
deep inside of me
Ev'ry time I see you,
all your goodness shines through;
I can feel this God-song
rising up in me: *Refrain*

Bridge

Yes, you make me sing,
LORD, you make me sing, sing, sing
How you make me sing:

Refrain

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CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us come into God's Presence today with penitent hearts and minds, asking for His Grace and Mercy in our lives.
- C **Lord God, Heavenly Father, we freely admit that sin in our lives is troubling. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. We have done what we should not have done, and we have failed to do what is expected of us. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us. Renew us. Strengthen us in our daily walk to Life Everlasting. Amen.**
- P To Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His Blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, even our Lord Jesus Christ, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.
As a Called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast – arr. J. Ferguson

LSB 171-172

To listen click <https://bit.ly/2VzZbRf>

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are His.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
For the Lamb Who was slain
Has begun His Reign.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Acts 5:29-42

(Peter and the other Apostles proclaim the risen Christ in spite of opposition.)

Peter and the other apostles replied:
“We must obey God rather than human beings!
The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—Whom you killed by hanging Him on a cross.
God exalted Him to His Own Right Hand as Prince and Savior that He might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.
But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.
Then he addressed the Sanhedrin:
“Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.
Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him.
He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.

After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt.
He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.
Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone!
Let them go!
For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.
But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”
His speech persuaded them.
They called the apostles in and had them flogged.
Then they ordered them not to speak in the Name of Jesus, and let them go.
The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 148:1-14

(All the earth praises the Lord for what He has done!)

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him from the heights above!

Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.

Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him you shining stars.

Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.

He set them in place for ever and ever; He gave a Decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding,

you mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted;

His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His saints,

of Israel, the people close to His Heart.

Praise the Lord!

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

I Peter 1:3-9

(Though we do not now see Jesus in person, we do love Him, trust in Him, and believe in Him.)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His Great Mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in Heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's Power until the coming of the

salvation that is ready to be revealed in the Last Time.

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Though you have not seen Him,
you love Him; and even though you do
not see Him now,

you believe in Him and are filled with an
inexpressible and glorious joy,
for you are receiving the end result of
your faith, the Salvation of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Sanctuary Choir

Alleluia! Sing Praise Chorale from *Cantata No. 142* – J. S. Bach, arr. C. C. Hirt

*Alleluia. Alleluia. Sing praise unto God. Sing praise to Him, with heart and voice exultant.
For us He died. By men denied. To rise again in glory now triumphant.*

To listen click <https://bit.ly/3aaIIza>

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20: 19-31

(Jesus brings peace and the assurance of His resurrection to His disciples.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the evening of that first day of the
week, when the disciples were together,
with the doors 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 Side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they
saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent Me, I am sending
you."

And with that He breathed on them and
said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are
forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they
are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of
the Twelve, was not with the disciples
when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him,

"We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail
marks in His Hands and put my finger
where the nails were, and put my hand
into His Side, I will not believe it."

A week later His disciples were in the
house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus
came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you!"
Then He said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here; see My Hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into My
Side. Stop doubting and believe."
Thomas said to Him,
"My Lord and my God!"
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have
seen Me, you have believed;

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

LSB 490

1. Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

2. Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

5. Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath

blessed are those who have not seen and
yet have believed."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in
the presence of His disciples, which are
not recorded in this Book.

But these are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that by believing you may have Life in
His Name.

3. Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4. Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

SERMON Socially Distant but Spiritually Close, in Christ, 1: Faith Tested/Faith Rejoicing
Pastor Jonathan Blanke

I Peter 1:3-9

See Sermon Outline on Page 11

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article of the Ancient Apostles' Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ –
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death,
and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver, but with His Holy, Precious Blood
and with His innocent Suffering and Death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and
blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Amazing Love, O What Sacrifice – G. Kendrick

Christopher Anderson Reed, soloist

1. My LORD, what love is this
that pays so dearly -
that I, the guilty one may go free?

2. And so they watched Him die;
despised, rejected -
but O, the blood He shed flowed for me!
Refrain

Refrain

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice -
The Son of God giv'n for me!
My debt He pays, and my death He dies
That I might live, That I might live!*

3. And now this love of Christ
shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away, live again!
Refrain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

HYMN

He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord

LSB 480

1. **He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

2. The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

3. But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

4. O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

5. Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

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P Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OFFERING *(The offerings of God's people will be received through mail and electronic giving.)*

POSTLUDE
Toccata and Chorale from Partita on "Auf, Auf, Mein Herz, Mit Frieden" – F. Peeters

Socially Distant but Spiritually Close, in Christ, 1: Faith Tested/Faith Rejoicing Easter 2 (1 Peter 1:3–9)

A new sermon series for the season of Easter begins today: “Socially distant but spiritually close, in Christ.” It will take us through St. Peter’s first epistle.

- I. It has been said, “If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans;” the _____ in life may lead us to wonder “Lord, what are you up to?”
 - a. In the life of our congregation, the unexpected has occurred...big time
 - b. How do we, either as a congregation for a family, budget, schedule activities, gather for milestone life events in the future?
- II. There are ____ ____ to ask the question “Lord, what are you up to?”
 - a. With great hand wringing and anxiety
 - b. With greater curiosity and eager anticipation regarding what is about to unfold
 - c. God’s abundant mercy, gifted to us through the resurrected Christ, *starts* moving us from “a” to “b”!
- III. Where everything _____
 - a. God chose Israel to be a nation through whom all nations would enter His blessing (Gen. 12:3; Deut. 7:6) and similarly chose the first recipients of St. Peter’s letter, people who would be “exiles” in the world (1:1)
 - b. God knew His own “ahead of time” (Ps 139:4, Jer. 1:5); the same holds true for the first readers of 1 Peter (1:2)
 - c. God has chosen us and already knew ahead of time the challenges we face today
- IV. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God causes us to be ____ ____ (1:3)!
 - a. Whether a single past event connected to Holy Baptism or a series of daily events that help us relive our baptism, this is God’s doing
 - b. “Hope,” though so often a wishy-washy word in our use of it, refers to a “living,” definite, eternal, and victorious gift of God!
 - c. The risen Christ “breathed” on his disciples (John 20:22) recreating them (see Genesis 2:7) with the gift of divine breath/the Spirit
- V. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we are given to await an ____ ____ (1:4)!
 - a. An inheritance kept in heaven that will never perish, spoil, or fade
 - b. Faith gifted by God connects us to that heavenly inheritance that our eyes have not seen.
 - c. Faith tested in our present times of trial and challenge comes out stronger on the other side (1:7)!
- VI. Little by little we are given to say “Lord, what are you up to?” out of expectant ____!

Servants in Worship

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke

Liturgist – Vicar Alan Shaw

Organist/Pianist/Vocals – Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry

Pianist/Vocals – Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Leader

Guitar/Vocals – Randy Leach

Vocalists/Lectors – Angela Ferguson, Emma Unger

Acknowledgments

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Although Thomas felt he had to see Jesus to believe in Him, we see Jesus by believing in Him; and through the eyes of faith, we see Jesus present in our lives by Word and Sacrament. Today's Gospel moves from the first Easter afternoon, through the following Sunday, and ends with a message of victory and peace and Life addressed to each of us.