

April 16, 2023
2nd Sunday of Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Study at 11:00.

HE LIVES!

Life is full of either/or moments where you face an unavoidable choice between two alternatives. Some of those moments are relatively insignificant. Some either/or moments are bigger than others.

Here is the biggest either/or of them all. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. One might ask, "How does that either/or affect me?" Because Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and Savior from sin. He said the proof is that he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things ... be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). Thus, if Jesus remains dead, he is both failure and fraud. However, if Jesus rose from the dead, he proves he is who he claimed to be—the Messiah. And he did what he came to do—save us.

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. That means, either Jesus is a complete waste of your time, or he is your only hope for salvation. If Jesus is still dead, it is completely logical that you should want nothing to do with him. If Jesus rose, it is only logical that he becomes the center and greatest priority of your life. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. This season of Easter is a 50-day-long celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered that either/or for us. We believe this life-changing truth. Christ is risen! He lives!

HE LIVES TO GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE

Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Yet, even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, who all saw the resurrected Jesus, Thomas had doubts: "Rising from the dead. That can't be possible!"

Today is a day of great comfort for any follower of Jesus who wrestles with doubt concerning Christ's promises or doubts about God's Word. Jesus didn't reject Thomas. Jesus engaged Thomas and gave him peace. Still today, Jesus comes to his disciples in Word and sacrament. The living Lord speaks to us. He lets us partake of his true body and blood. When we show weakness of faith, he does not reject us. Just as he did with Thomas, Jesus engages us, giving us proof and peace.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



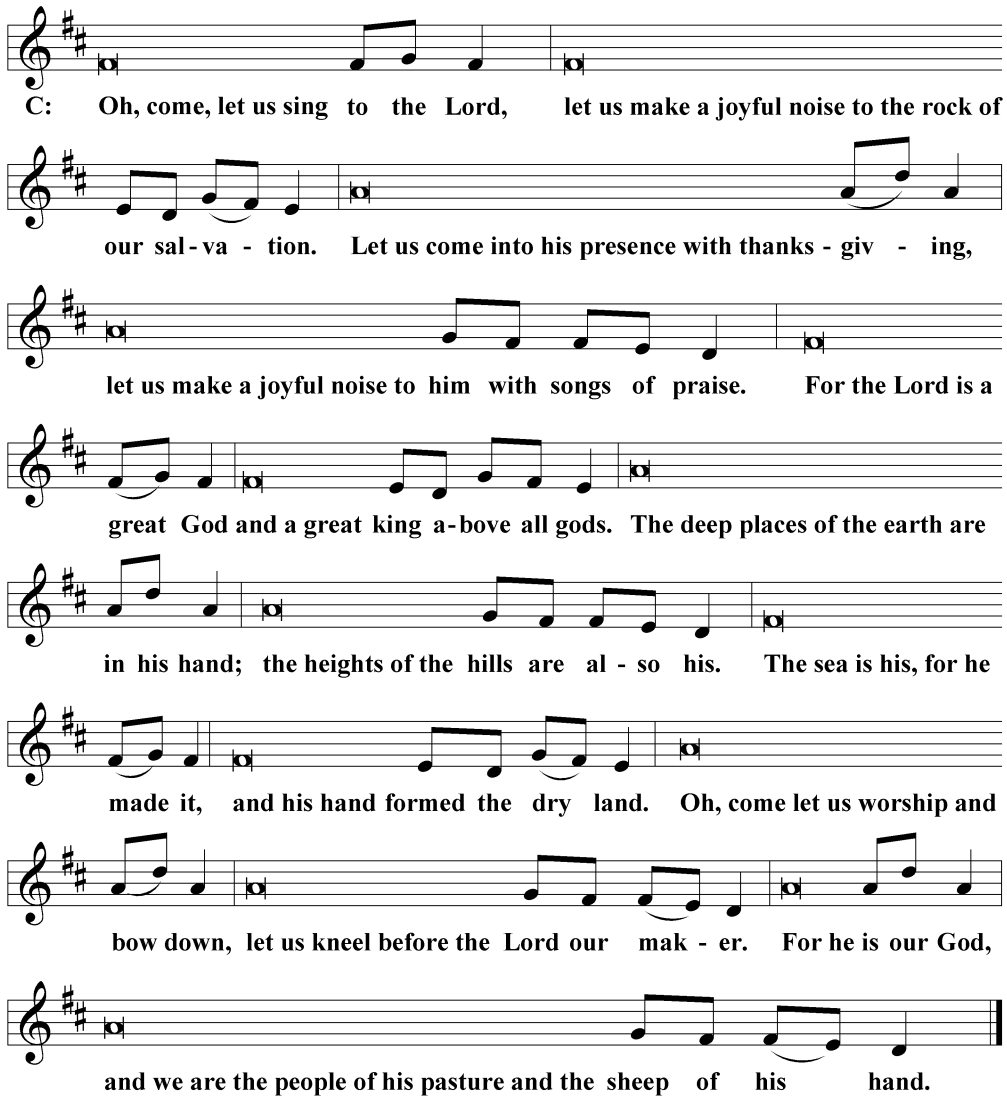
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: The Lord is risen: let us worship him.



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of
our sal-va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a
great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he
made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come let us worship and
bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:14A,22–32

The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so that they might testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Through their testimony, God gives his Church proof and peace.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

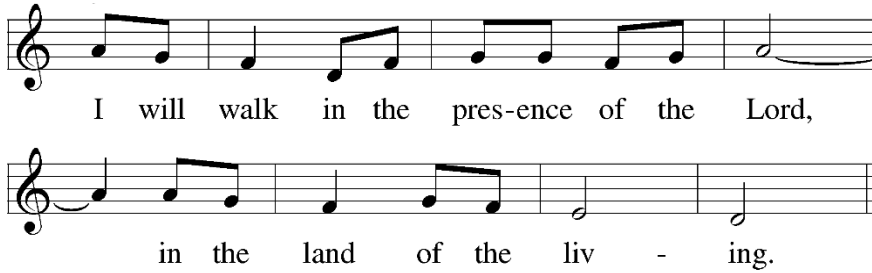
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 16



- M: Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.
C: **I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”**
- M: I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.
C: **I have set the LORD always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**
- M: Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
C: **You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**
- 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.**

REFRAIN

SECOND LESSON

1 PETER 1:3-9

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have regardless of the outward circumstances of our life.

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These 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. ⁸Though 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, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL

JOHN 20:19-31

Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas, peace that could only be found in his Lord and God.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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!” ²⁷Then 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.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Verse of the Day:

M: The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Death has been swallowed up in victory.
Alleluia!

Be seated

HYMN: O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

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SERMON on 1 PETER 1:3-9

Stand

C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,
 Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of
 heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of
 pro-phets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:
 Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,
 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of

glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa-ther. When you became man to
 set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the
 sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.
 We believe that you will come to be our judge.
 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of
 your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

OFFERING

Financial offerings are a regular, proportionate, and joyful response of love by members of a Christian congregation. Our offerings are given to further the work of God's kingdom here at Abiding Word and around the world through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to support our ministry. We no longer pass the plate, but you can leave your offering in the plates by the entrance to the sanctuary.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

M: O God of grace, mercy and peace: by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have given us assurance that our faith stands upon a most true and sure foundation. Grant us the living witness of your Spirit that our hearts may rest firmly in this truth.

We thank you for your unspeakable gift of eternal life in your Son. Preserve and defend us from all assaults on our souls that we may hold fast to the confession of our faith. Deliver us from doubt and despair. Save us from worldly wisdom and false learning.

We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for your holy Word. Grant that we may be illumined by its heavenly light and instructed by its saving truth. And though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us to see him with the eyes of faith, lead us to love him and rejoice in him, and grant that we may receive the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls. Breathe upon your Church that it may faithfully preach your Word and proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people.

Forgive the sins of your people, O Lord. Strengthen the doubting and the faithless. Bring back the forgetful and the wayward. And comfort the anxious and the distressed.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, as we go from this holy place today, grant to us all peace and rest according to your good will, and bring us finally to your heavenly kingdom. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

HYMN: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

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