

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B April 11, 2021
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

In the midst of doubt and confusion, when we don't know what to believe, Jesus comes with words of hope and comfort: "Peace be with you."

*SCRIPTURE READING Acts 4:32-35

* OPENING HYMN: # 304..... Easter People, Raise Your Voices

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The resurrection of Christ was an act of God which illustrates victory over sin for every generation.

People: We are just as thrilled today as those who were blessed with a firsthand experience of Christ's resurrection.

Leader: We, too, have our firsthand experience because God gives us faith which is more blessed than sight.

People: We thank God for granting us the faith to believe in our risen Lord, enabling us to experience his presence.

* Let us pray (Congregation):

Eternal God our heavenly Father, who reveals your risen Son to those who are willing to see with the eyes of faith: Touch our hearts with a vision of Christ; that we may have the joy of a firsthand experience with our risen Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

128.....He Leadeth Me

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)

We picture in our minds, Father, the excitement of the disciples when they saw the risen Lord. But that leaves us with a secondhand experience, because we do not include ourselves in that scene. Forgive us when we fail to see, in our day-by-day experiences, the risen Lord going with us. Increase our faith, that we, too, may know the Lord is risen because of his presence with us. In his name we pray. Amen.

* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

381Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us open the eyes and ears of our hearts, that we may hear the words of challenge and comfort that the Spirit brings us this morning.

*SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19-31

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Keep the Door Open"

* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 454..... Open My Eyes, That I May See

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

* CLOSING HYMN: # 338..... Where He Leads Me (vs 1 & 4)

* DISMISSAL BLESSING

1st Scripture Reading: Acts 4:32-35 (NKJV)

³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

2nd Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were ^[a] assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, ^[b] "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



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