

Reach One More For Jesus!

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Help me, "my Lord and my God" (John 20:28), to be as honest about my doubts as Thomas was, that those doubts might be the seeds of true belief.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: If we are the disciples, locked in a room of fear,

P: Jesus appears to us.

L: If we are Thomas, full of doubt,

P: Jesus turns to us.

L: If we bear trials and suffering,

P: God comes to us in power.

L: If we rejoice,

P: we do so in the presence of God.

L: So let us come, wherever we are, whoever we are,

P: to the God of hope and life.

OPENING HYMN "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

Hymnal Page #304

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

OPENING PRAYER

Stand among us once again, Risen Christ, and bless us with Your greeting: "Peace be with you." Stand among us once again, Exalted Brother, and breathe upon us Your promised Spirit. Stand among us once again, You Who Have Escaped Death, and give us new birth into Your living hope. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31 NRSV

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." ²²When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

One: *The Word of God for the people of God.*

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "HOW'S LIFE AFTER EASTER?"

1. PEACE BE WITH YOU!

2. AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU!

3. STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE!

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymnal #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of great mercy, accept our offerings, given out of what is more precious than gold— our faith in You, giver of hope and life. And through these gifts, reveal the risen Christ in acts of mercy, love, and joy. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Because He Lives"

Hymnal Page #364

1. God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive; he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.
2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he [Jesus] gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.
3. And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

BENEDICTION