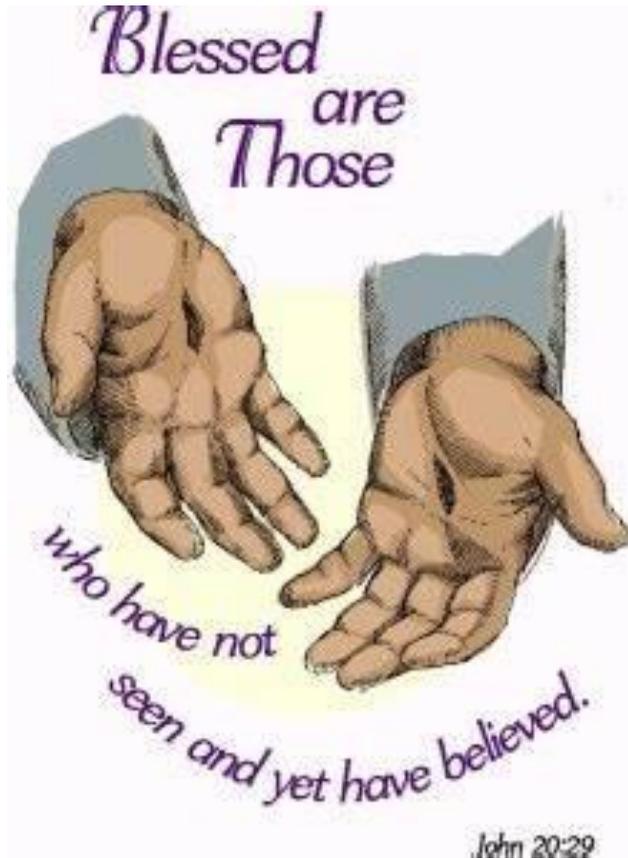


Together With Faith We Can:  
Connect, Grow and Serve



Second Sunday after Easter  
April 11, 2021



## **As We Gather**

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"

## **Prelude**

### **Opening Hymn 464** "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the victor's triumph won;  
Now be the song of praise begun.  
Alleluia!**
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!**
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head!  
Alleluia!**
- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.  
Alleluia!**
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Invocation**

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## **Easter Acclamation**

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

## Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,

C **we lie and do not practice the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P If we say we have not sinned,

C **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## This Is the Feast

C **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**  
**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**  
**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Salutation**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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

C **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*Acts 4:32–35*

R <sup>32</sup>The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

*1 John 1:1—2:2*

R <sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*John 20:19–31*

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

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

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day 470** "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

**1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Sermon**

### **Creed**

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

P Merciful Father, at Your bidding we come to You in prayer, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested. Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in You we may know the full comfort of Your gracious presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Deliver us from pride and humble us by Your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Make Your Church bold in the confession of Your name before the world and give Your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Restore those absent too long from the Church's sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need, Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

P Accept the praise and thanksgiving of our lips, the tithes and offerings we bring, and our labors for Your glory, that we not suffer from ingratitude or the pride that believes all we have is the fruit of our own work. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

- P Remembering blessed Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

### **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 shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

- P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Closing Hymn 649**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**
- 2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**
- 3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- 4 When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.**
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

### **Postlude**

#### **Acknowledgments**

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**Please pray for:** Kathy Cooper recovering from accidental injury; Sandy Verhoven, continuing treatment in Florida. Cards of encouragement can be sent to Sandy and Frank at 8239 Ridge Dale Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34613. Margaret Boehm is now at Christian Care.

**Members continuing medical care, undergoing treatment or in need of prayer:** Arnie and Pat Abrelat, Pat Brady, Terry Carlson, Brenda Hoisington, Jan Larabee, Larry Miller, Sally Mitchell, Sue Neuman, Norbert Scholle, Belinda Schouten, Jill Sorensen, Sandy Verhoven, Carol Warren, Duane Wentzloff, and Sue Woodruff.

**Pray for St. Mark members who reside in assisted living facilities:** Margaret Boehm is now at Christian Care, Mary Benninger at Seminole Shores, and Betty Havermans at American House.

**Please pray for family and friends of the congregation:**

**Eric Wentzloff**, son of Duane and Cherie Wentzloff; **Deb Guilbault**, sister-in-law of Tami Sheehy;; **Sue Swanson**, sister, and **Carol Weaver**, friend of Carolyn Bickmeyer; **Vivian Hayes**, sister-in-law of Linda Hayes and Pam Bruining; **Gary Kienke**, friend, and **Jan Wallstead** and **Betty Hennrick**, sisters of Nancy (Joe) Kimble; **Amanda Cortes**, daughter of Tony and Jean Hladki; **Nathan Erickson**, son of Lee and Beth Erickson; **Sandra Stuemke**, sister of Larry and Gloria Miller; **Huck Breen**, brother-in-law, and **Olivia Gillespie**, friend of Gary and Kathleen Schottke; **Robert Council**, son of Carolyn Council and brother of Becky and Belinda (Bruce) Schouten; **Jody Hoppus**, sister of Jim (Melinda) Hoppus; **Caleb Sheldon**, grandson of Al and Mary Sheldon; **Joy Chalko**, sister, and **Gary**, brother-in-law of Renee Schaab; **Scott Verhoven**, son of Sandy and Frank Verhoven; **Ron Burmeister**, father of Steve Burmeister; **Sheila Bluhm**, daughter of Lois Bluhm; **Janet Havey**, sister, and **Keonna Watkins**, daughter-in-law of Larry and Cindy Bolduc; **Ray Bohnert**, **Eddie Yamnitz** and **Ruby Bohnert**, grandparents of Alisha Schimm; **Gloria Suchecki**, friend and **Allen Hosko**, nephew of Sandy Hosko; **Colleen Whittaker**, sister of Mike (Gail) Whittaker; **Roger Miller**, cousin of Larry (Gloria) Miller, Kay (Tim) Schouten and Jean (Tony) Hladki; **Terry Jensen**, former member and brother of Frank (Sandy) Verhoven; **Linda DeKuiper**, friend of Judy Yonker, **Bob Thom**, brother of Bonnie (Ron) Micka; **Jeff**, brother-in-law of Jane (Larry) Bednarz; **Barb Ruckle**, niece of Carol (Mike) Sutton; **William and Jonie Guerne**, grandson and daughter-in-law of Dick (Lynne) Guerne, **Mary Micka**, sister of Ron (Bonnie) Micka, **Doris Franks**, sister of Ardy Bulthouse; **Beth and Jeff**, sister and brother-in-law of Jane Bednarz; baby **Liam** and parents **Toni and Kyle**, great-great-nephew of Duane and Cherié Wentzloff; **Shelley Becklin**, friend of Jean Dusenberry and the **Love family** relatives of Marsh and Sue Lohr.

**Please note:** The newest family and friends prayer requests appear at the bottom of the "Family and Friends" list. Members of St. Mark prayer requests appear under "Please pray for..." if it is recent and/or urgent, or otherwise under "Members continuing medical care...". We ask that you let the office know if you or your friend/family member has recovered and can be removed from the prayer list. Each Tuesday is the deadline to add a name to the list.



**Join us beginning on Sunday, May 2, at  
5:00pm in the parking lot.  
Come rain or shine with your chairs.  
Tell your neighbors and friends.**