

Prelude

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Hymn No. 363

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

Hymn No. 167

Refrain sung by all

Versus sung by Cantor or Choir

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Teaching Moment

Children's Sermon

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 4:32–35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133 *(Responsively, Lector and People)*

¹How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,

flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing:

life for evermore.

Second Lesson

1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 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; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Page 188

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the worlds of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia,
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 20:19–31

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

(Continues on next page)

(3)

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.

(Spoken after the reading) **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor David Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“We Walk By Faith”

Hymn No. 635

Nicene Creed

(Together) **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

(After each petition:) Have mercy, O God..... **Have mercy, O God.**

Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

MEAL**Choir Anthem**

"Alleluia, Praise His Name"

Schram (8:30)

Offering**Offering Prayer**

(Together) **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

R/ And also with you.

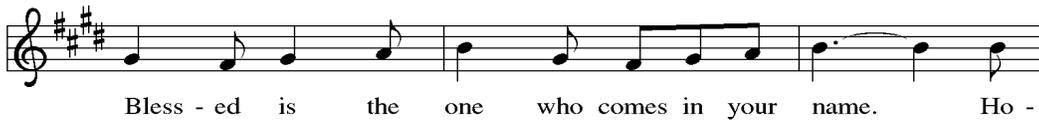
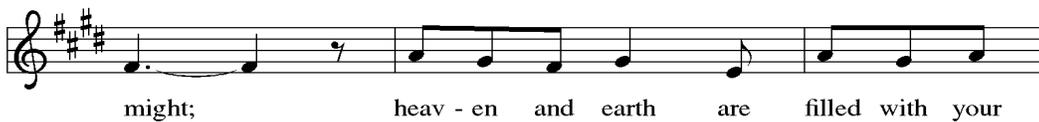
Lift up your hearts.

R/ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, living, and loving God...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The acclamation will be sung first by the presiding minister, and then repeated by all.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

Through him all glory is yours Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer

(Together) **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.**

Invitation

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you." All our welcome.

Lamb of God

Page 191

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymn

"Come, Let Us Eat"
"Dona nobis pacem"

Hymn No. 491

Hymn No. 753

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus”

Hymn No. 501

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. Serve the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude



The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.