

Liturgy

The Second Sunday of Easter
Year A

GATHERING

Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us sing for joy,
and worship the risen Lord!

That Eastertide With Joy Was Bright

That Eastertide with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The glad apostles saw their Lord.

He bade them see His hands, His side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide;
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.

Jesus, the King of gentleness,
Do Thou Thyself our hearts possess
That we may give Thee all our days
The tribute of our grateful praise.

All praise be Thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored;
All praise to God the Father be
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Public domain. Words: Unknown author, 5th century
(*Aurora lucis rutilat*); trans. by John M. Neale in
Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861.
Hymn tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, 15th century.

*LECTIONARY for the second Sunday
of Easter, Year A:*

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

We come now to the second Sunday in the liturgical season of Eastertide. For many churches, and individuals, the tendency is to think of Easter as a one-day event—the highest day of the Christian year, surely, but also as the day we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. But in the tradition of the Christian year, Easter is a fifty-day period of celebration beginning with Resurrection Sunday and culminating on the Day of Pentecost. During Eastertide, the Church considers and contemplates the meaning and significance of the Resurrection not only for each one of us individually who are now redeemed and seek to walk moment by moment as His disciples, but also its significance for all of creation. In Year A, the lectionary invites us to consider this expanded meaning and significance through several amazing and remarkable encounters and interactions with the risen Christ..

The second Sunday of Easter is sometimes called Saint Thomas Sunday because the Gospel reading tells the narrative of Jesus' appearance to the assembled disciples, which on this day included Thomas, who was not present at His first appearance on the evening of Resurrection Day. If we read between the lines, and listen carefully, we can almost hear Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (Jn. 20:29), echoing in Peter's testimony to Christ's death and victorious resurrection found in Acts 2: "This Jesus, God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses!" And we can hear a continuing resonance as well in David's prophetic words in the messianic Psalm 16: "You do not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

I Give You My Heart

This is my desire:
To honor You;
Lord, with all my heart
I worship You.
All I have within me,
I give You praise;
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart,
I give You my soul;
I live for You alone.
Ev'ry breath that I take,
Ev'ry moment I'm awake:
Lord, have Your way in me.

CCLI Song # 1866132;
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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By His great mercy He has given us a new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading.

**This inheritance is kept in heaven for us,
who are being protected by the power of God through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

*In this you rejoice,
even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith –
being more precious than gold
which, though perishable, is tested by fire –
may be found to result in praise and glory and honor
when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

Although you have not seen Him, you love Him;
and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him
and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

*For you are receiving the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.*

– 1 Peter 1:3-9

**By His resurrection He has overcome death
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.**

**By His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.
Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.**

– from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 45

nor let my body see decay. You make known to me the path of life.” And also in David’s praise-filled response: “You make known to me the path of life. In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

The Gathering reading (previous page) is from Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost, in which he recounts his encounter with the risen Messiah.

The opening hymn, That Eastertide With Joy Was Bright, is a lively, centuries-old Easter hymn based on an ancient text that reflects the scene in John 20. Music for this setting is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and as vocal line with piano accompaniment (on request). During the season of Eastertide, this setting is offered at no cost to the Clerestory Notes community.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/eastertide-joy-was-bright>

The song of response at Invocation, I Give You My Heart, reflects Jesus’ breathing on the gathered disciples in the John text, and our embrace of His gracious gift.

The Profession of Faith sets the epistle passage of today’s readings, along with a corporate response taken from the historic Heidelberg Catechism, for two groups within the congregation, with the sections in bold font read by everyone.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Lord, You have called us to be Your own.
You have given us new life and a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
We love You, and we want to live for You.
Yet we confess that we do not always follow Your ways.
Lord, in Your grace and mercy, forgive us.

[Silent confessions]

Lord, help us to spread Your goodness everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with Your spirit and life.

Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel Your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus! ... Let us preach You without preaching, not by words but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen.

– from a prayer by John Henry Newman

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew.
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Public domain. Text: Edwin Hatch. Music: Robert Jackson.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I say to the LORD,
“You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from You.”
*I have set the LORD continually before me;
because He is at my right hand,
I shall not be shaken.*
Therefore my heart is glad,
and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
*For You do not abandon me
to the realm of the dead,
nor let your faithful one see decay.*

**You make known to me the path of life.
In Your presence there is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Thanks be to God!**

– from Psalm 16

Passing of the Peace

The prayer of confession is adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman, a nineteenth-century British Catholic theologian. Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web.

The Assurance of Pardon is drawn from today's psalm. (Notice that Peter quotes Psalm 16 in his sermon, which we read earlier.)

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Lord of life, You have blessed us with the riches of Your grace and have raised us to new life in You. If the whole realm of nature were ours, it would be an offering far too small. Your amazing love, so divine, demands our souls, our lives, our all. With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves, Your tithes, and our offerings.

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Chorus:

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace
Draw near, and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

CCLI Song #3148435 ©2000 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps
Music Chris Tomlin, Isaac Watts, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves and Lowell Mason.

THE WORD

John 20:19-31

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

Psalm 16

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**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 debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power,
And the glory, forever.
Amen**

Beneath the Cross

Beneath the cross of Jesus,
I find a place to stand;
And wonder at such mercy,
That calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me,
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus,
His fam'ly is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one, through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus,
The path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps,
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus,
We will gladly live our lives.

CCLI Song #4610917 ©2005
Thankyou Music. Keith and Kristyn Getty.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

*If this is an extended time of worship,
prayer and song, you may also want
to add Matt Redman's wonderful
Breathing the Breath ("Lord, we're
breathing the breath that You gave us
to breathe to worship You, ..."):
CCLI Song #4328876; ©2004 ThankYou
Music*

*The Life of the Body is a time of shar-
ing, announcements, any additional
presented material, introduction of
guests, etc. Followed by a closing
song that reflects the themes of the
worship service and a benediction,
we—the people of God—are sent forth
into the world to love and serve the
Lord, giving witness to what we have
seen and heard in our encounter with
the risen Christ.*

Doxology

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

Hymn tune: OLD 100TH (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), 1551.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674.
Public domain.

Benediction:

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in Him.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Now, as He stood in the midst of His disciples,
the conqueror of sin and death,
and spoke peace to them
and breathed the Holy Spirit into their hearts,
so may our encounter with the living Christ
compel us to go forth into the world,
giving witness to what we have seen and believed,
to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the ancient Fathers –

“Our confession must not contain lazy or deliberately vague words. There must not be any space between our heart and lips, lest what should be the confession of true reverence become a mask for evil. The Word must be near us and within us. There must not be any delay between the heart and the lips. We must have a faith of conviction as well as of words. . . . The Apostle Paul explains the prophet's words: ‘That is the word of faith, which we preach; because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved.’ . . . Faith lies in simplicity, righteousness in faith, and true godliness in confession. For God doesn't call us to the blessed life through tiring investigations. He doesn't tempt us with rhetoric. The way to eternity is plain and easy: believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess that He is the Lord. . . . Jesus Christ died so that we could live in Him.”
– Hilary of Poitiers

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

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