

*Liturgy*

The Second Sunday of Easter  
Year B

GATHERING

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, 5<sup>th</sup> century  
(*Aurora lucis rutilat*); trans. by John M. Neale in  
*Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861.  
Hymn tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, 15<sup>th</sup> century

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

**By His covenant love,  
He has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

This is the message we have heard from Him  
and proclaim to you:

**God is light,  
and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

God has claimed us as His own:

**He has called us out of darkness  
into His marvelous light,  
and made us with Him  
to be light to the world.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

— from 1 Peter 1:3, 2:9; Matt. 5:14; 1 John 1:5

*LECTIONARY for the second Sunday  
of Easter, Year B*

*Acts 4:32-35*

*Psalm 133*

*1 John 1:1—2:2*

*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. During this season in each of the yearly cycles, the lectionary invites us to focus on several aspects of our relationship with Christ in view of the victory He won in His dying and rising again to life in His resurrection glory.*

*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, but 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 the opening words of John's first epistle: "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..."*

## INVOCATION

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

### *Beautiful Savior*

Beautiful Savior, king of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.  
Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677;  
Transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; verse 4, Joseph A. Seiss.  
Music *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

*This 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.*

– 1 John 1:1-2

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;  
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried.  
The third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

– Nicene Creed

*(1 John 1:1). The other readings in this week's lectionary emphasize the blessings of walking in the light of Christ and of our fellowship with one another, bound together in love as God's beloved children.*

*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>

*This song of response to close the prayers of invocation is a slightly different version of the familiar, and much loved, Fairest Lord Jesus. It flows wonderfully into the Profession of Faith.*

*The Profession of Faith sets the first part of today's epistle reading in antiphonal form for two readers or groups, followed by a congregational reading of the ancient Nicene Creed. (What resonances can you see of these verses from John's first epistle in the text of the Nicene Creed?)*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Reading: 1 John 1:3 - 2:2

Lord, You have called us to become Your own.  
We were bought with a price, the price of Your life and blood.  
We love You, and we want to live for You.

[Silence]

Lord, help us to spread Your fragrance 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!**

[Silence]

Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine.

**Let us preach You without preaching,  
not by words only 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.**

—from a prayer by John Henry Newman

*The Lord Is My Light*

The Lord is my light,  
My light and salvation;  
In God I trust, in God I trust.

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71250 Taizé, France.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

These are sure promises of God:

If you repent, I will restore you  
that you may serve Me and stand before Me.  
— Jeremiah 15:19

*If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*  
— 1 John 1:9

Once you were darkness,  
but now you are light in the Lord.  
— Ephesians 5:8

**Thanks be to God!**

*The Call to Confession, read by a single reader, completes the text of the epistle lection.*

*The prayer of confession today is adapted from a prayer by John Henry Newman, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century British Catholic theologian. Newman's original prayer and Mother Teresa's modification of it are widely available on the web.*

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

### *Breathing the Breath*

We have nothing to give  
That didn't first come from Your hands.  
We have nothing to offer You  
Which You did not provide.  
Every good perfect gift comes  
From Your kind and gracious heart;  
And all we do is give back to You  
What always has been Yours.

### *Chorus*

Lord, we're breathing the breath  
That You gave us to breathe  
To worship You, to worship You.  
And we're singing these songs  
With the very same breath  
To worship You, to worship You.

Who has given to You  
That it should be paid back to him?  
Who has given to You  
As if You needed anything?  
From You and to You  
And through You come all things, O Lord;  
And all we do is give back to You  
What always has been Yours.

### *Bridge:*

We are breathing the breath  
That You gave us to breathe (repeat)

CCLI Song #4328876 ©2004 ThankYou Music. Matt Redman

## THE WORD

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

## 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.**

*John 20:21-22: "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit . . .'"*

*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.

*King of Wisdom and Light*

Holy, holy, holy,  
God of power and might:  
Heaven is filled with Your glory,  
King of wisdom and light.

We worship You, we praise You,  
God Most High;  
We worship You, we praise You,  
King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

CCLI Song #2514352 ©1998 International Liturgy Publications. Jim Cowan

SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*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 100<sup>TH</sup> (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), 1551. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674.  
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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 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

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*The Life of the Body is a time of sharing, 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.*