

## Liturgy

### The Second Sunday of Easter Year C

#### 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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
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.

#### **Praise the LORD!**

Praise God in His sanctuary;

*Praise Him in His mighty firmament!*

Praise Him for His mighty acts;

*Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!*

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;

*Praise Him with the lute and harp!*

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;

*Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!*

Praise Him with loud cymbals;

*Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*

**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.**

**Praise the LORD!**

— Psalm 150

#### LECTIONARY for the second Sunday of Easter, Year C

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

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 C, the lectionary invites us to focus on the many and various ways we walk in the joyful truth of the Resurrection, and give witness to that truth through our words and our lives.*

*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 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 5: "We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him!" And we can hear a continuing resonance, as well, in the words of praise in the Psalms ("I shall recount the deeds of the*

## *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Praise to the Lord,  
The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him,  
For He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,  
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen  
How all thy longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord!  
O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2013 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.  
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; transl. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863.  
Hymn tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, 1665.

## INVOCATION

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

Sung:  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again –  
Gladly, for aye we adore Him;  
Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

## 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

*LORD;” “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!”) and in the words of confident hope and fulfillment in the first chapter of Revelation.*

*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 as a free resource to the Clerestory Notes community.*

Link:

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

*Ellen's setting of Praise to the Lord, the Almighty is available in the music catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet and scored for keyboard (suitable for piano or organ, also). Please see the commentary on this hymn setting for reflections on the text, performance suggestions, and creative ideas for using the hymn verses throughout a worship service.*

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-almighty>

*Another option for an opening hymn/song, setting today's psalm, is Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord), (CCLI Song #7161130 ©2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs | Getty Music Publishing | Love Your Enemies Publishing | Messenger Hymns. Matt Papa, Matt Boswell).*

*These verses from the first epistle of John reflect our theme of bearing witness to the Resurrection through our words and our lives. Written for two readers (antiphonally placed works well!), it serves as a prelude to the Nicene Creed (below), which is read corporately.*

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

#### PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Brightness of God's glory and exact image of God's person,  
whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison:  
You shared our frailty in human flesh, and suffered for our redemption.  
In Your presence now we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
and our offenses against You and against others.

[silence]

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive us.  
Reveal Yourself to us this day and every day  
as the first and the last, the ever-living one,  
who was, and is, and is to come –  
our eternal Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world;  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world;  
Grant us peace;  
Grant us peace;  
Grant us peace.

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham

*This prayer of Confession is adapted  
from the traditional Easter prayer in  
the Book of Common Worship  
(1932); public domain.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This indeed is good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne;

*And grace to you, and peace, from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,  
the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.*

He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,  
and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.

**To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.**

*And behold, He is coming with clouds,  
and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.*

**He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,  
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

– from Revelation 1:4-8

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Lord, You plainly show us Your love and goodness over and over.  
We are so grateful ...

### *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.

#### *Chorus*

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

## THE WORD

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29

Psalms 150

Revelation 1:4-8

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!**

### *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**

### *Jesus is Lord*

"Jesus is Lord," the cry that echoes through creation;  
Resplendent pow'r, eternal Word, our Rock.  
The Son of God, the King, whose glory fills the heavens,  
Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord, whose voice sustains the stars and planets;  
Yet, in His wisdom, laid aside His crown.  
Jesus, the man who washed our feet, who bore our suff'ring,  
Became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!  
Not even death could crush this King of love!  
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,  
And we can run into the arms of God.

"Jesus is Lord," a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,  
As He returns, and ev'ry knee bows low.  
Then ev'ry eye and ev'ry heart will see His glory;  
The Judge of all will take His children home.

CCLI Song #3992447 ©2003 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

### *Revelation Song*

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;  
Holy, holy is He.  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat.

#### *Chorus*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything  
And I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power  
Be to You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,  
At the mention of Your name;  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,  
Such a marv'lous mystery.

CCLI Song #4447960 ©2004 Gateway Create Publishing. Jennie Lee Riddle

#### SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

*That Eastertide With Joy Was Bright (reprise)*

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

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013. 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.

#### Benediction:

Almighty God,  
whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table,  
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.

**Amen.**

And as we go forth, walking out our baptisms,  
to love and serve the Lord,  
may He grant that what has been said with our lips  
we may believe in our hearts,  
and that what we believe in our hearts  
we may practice in our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever.  
**Amen! Thanks be to God! 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 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Copyright ©2022, 2025 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>