

Order of Worship for April 16, 2023

Prelude:

P: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn: “Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain” - Hymn #487

Confession and Forgiveness p. 203

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

P: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation

C: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

C: make known His deeds among the peoples!

P: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C: tell of all His wondrous works!

P: Glory in His holy name;

C: let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

P: Seek the LORD and His strength;

C: seek His presence continually!

P: Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

C: His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

P: He remembers His covenant forever,

C: the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation

C: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie: (*Lord, Have Mercy*) p. 204

Hymn of Praise: (*Glory to God in the Highest*) p. 204

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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 5:29–42

R: But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” When the Jewish council heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name (of Jesus). And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Epistle Lesson:-- 1 Peter 1:3–9

R: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

R: This is the Word of the Lord’

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse: p. 205

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: 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.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.” 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.” 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.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

Nicene Creed: p. 206

Sermon Hymn: “*These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*” - **Hymn #472**

Sermon: “*See My Hands!*” - **John 20:19-31**

When you were little mom and dad were brilliant. They had all the answers. Mom had a way of making every hurt feel better. Dad was stronger, faster, and taller than anyone else. You lived in the best neighborhood, with the best house, and your family was the best. And for a while you could believe that your team was the best and that America is perfect.

But that can all change as we grow up. Moms and dads don’t know everything. You learn things in school that can reveal that your parents are prejudiced or aren’t so smart about caring for the environment or don’t understand other cultures or don’t know things that our friends know better. That is even more pronounced today than ever because for the first time in history children often know the technology better than their parents do, which is why the parents ask them what is wrong on their computers.

As we go to school, we learn that America and Americans have many faults. We see that we use up more than our fair share of the world’s resources and that there is much in our society that is wrong.

Those doubts can also affect our faith. Jesus talked about having the faith of a little child. We know when we have children’s sermons the standard answer kids give to any question is “Jesus.” We go to Sunday School which is fun at first because we sing songs, play/act stories,

and do crafts with teachers who really love us. But that changes. Bible stories aren't as fun as finding videos on You-tube or texting our friends. Jesus and church doesn't seem to have much to do with having pimples on our faces, feeling excluded by groups at school, being not as good an athlete as other guys, wanting some guy or girl to be interested in us who probably never will be. And that struggle can come true as we go to high school and wonder where we fit. As we think about college, people ask, "What do you want to do with your life?" It goes on in college as we think of our major and passing classes, as we date, think of marriage, struggle to get a job, get married, raise children, work toward retirement, and leave good a legacy for our grandchildren. What does the Bible, Jesus, and all of that have do to with dragging ourselves out of bed, paying bills, passing tests, and relating to our friends?

Thomas was looking for something definite. The other disciples had told him that they had seen Jesus alive, risen from the dead. But that seemed all too good to be true. Thomas wasn't going to believe until He saw the real Jesus, a Jesus he could not only see, but one he could touch and know was real.

One of the most horrible illnesses is schizophrenia. It is often mistaken, seen as having a split personality. We say a person is "schizoid" if that person acts like two or more people. But actually schizophrenia is the inability to distinguish reality from imagination. A person afflicted by this sees things as real to him or her that are only illusions.

We suffer from spiritual schizophrenia. We see things as so real and so important—the latest electronic device, an athletic or music award, a striking girl or a hunk of a guy, a new car, or a vacation home, a big promotion—and then find out too late how unimportant those things really are. We think we have a better reality—that it's okay to have sex outside of marriage, that our needs are more important than others, that our parents or adults are so backward, that going to church is not worth the effort. We think that way because we are convinced that we know better than God.

In the story Jesus tells about the Rich Fool, a rich man has so much that he goes to bed thinking, "I've got it made!" But he is not seeing reality, not when that night he dies and is left with nothing.

The movie, "A Beautiful Mind" shows the struggles of a man with schizophrenia. He is a brilliant man who becomes convinced that he is being harassed by enemies of the United States who want to find out about secret government code work he is hired to do. We see things in the movie through his eyes, so we are convinced that he is being persecuted by all sides and no one believes that there is a conspiracy against him. The movie reaches a climax when he is confronted with what is really real. He can trust that nothing he sees is real—except his wife who loves him unconditionally. Her love becomes the starting point for him. He knows that she alone is real. And from there he works to distinguish reality from illness. For example, near the end of the movie a man comes by his class to interview him. He interrupts the man to ask his students, "Is this man real?" They assure him the man is.

We need something real, definite to deal with our schizophrenia. Thomas found that in Jesus. Jesus appeared to him. But even more He told Thomas, “Put your finger here, see My hands. Reach out your hand, and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Jesus was not some apparition. He was real, alive. Even historians who are not Christians, who don’t believe in miracles, say something incredible happened on Easter. The disciples didn’t make up a story. They truly believed as real that Jesus rose from the dead!

That is the basis of all reality for you and me. Jesus rose from the dead. So what? So everything! Easter means that everything Jesus said and did is real. When He says that He took the sins of the world on the cross, then it really did happen. “I am the resurrection and the life; He who believes in Me though He die, yet shall He live.” “I am the Good Shepherd.” “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” “I am with you always to the end of the earth.” “Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” “On this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell will never prevail against it.” “No one can snatch you out of my hands.” “Your sins are forgiven.” “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” “In My Father’s house there are many rooms. I go to prepare a place for you.” “Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again, and you will rejoice, and no one can take away your joy.”

Real is our God who made the world and you and me. Real is our Savior who became one of us to die with our sins and restore us to God. Real is the Holy Spirit who lives in you and me to assure us that we are God’s. Other people and culture will tell us, “You’re not good enough. You’re dumb or fat or ugly or awkward or worthless.” God says, “I love you totally.” Our experiences will tell us, “Live for things, for what you can enjoy.” God tells us, “Live for others, live for what lasts.” We can look to the risen Jesus and see what is real. And everything is based on that. We may not have Jesus standing in front of us as he did with Thomas, but we have His body and blood in Holy Communion. That is not some vision, some make-believe. It is real, more real than anything else we experience in this life.

What is real? “See My hands.” Look at Jesus.

Prayer of the Church:

P: Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Sharing Our Ministry:

Offering and Voluntary:

Service of the Sacrament p. 208

Preface: p. 208

P: it is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very

Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, Thomas, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) p. 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P We give thanks to You almighty God for sending into this world, Your Lamb, Christ Jesus, For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation, until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal. Hear us as we pray on His name and as He taught us . . .

Lord's Prayer: p. 209

The Words of Our Lord, Pax Domini: (*Peace of the Lord*) p. 209

Agnus Dei: (*Lamb of God*) p. 210

Distribution of Holy Communion:

6th Grade String Trio - Lida Teske; Brinley Battles; Naya Nakama

“*O Sons and Daughters of the King*” - **Hymn #470**

“*Your Table I Approach*” - **Hymn #628**

Nunc Dimitti: (*Now Let Us Depart*) p. 211

Prayer After Communion:

P: Lord God, we thank You for coming to us in a way we can see and touch in Holy Communion. Help us to carry that belief as we leave this place to share Your love.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus (*Let Us Bless*) **and Benediction:** p. 212

Closing Hymn: “*We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight*” - **Hymn #720**

Postlude: