

Order of Worship for April 27, 2025

Prelude:

P: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Service of the Word

P: Jesus rose on Easter to give us victory and to give us the power to forgive sins:

Holy Gospel: John 20:19–23

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 anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

P: Yet we doubt Jesus’ Word.

Hymn: “O Sons and Daughters of the King” - Hymn #470: verses 1-4

P: We doubt like Thomas:

John 20:24-29

P: 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.”

Hymn: “O Sons and Daughters of the King” - Hymn #470, verses 5-7

Children’s Message (8:30)

John 20:30-31

P: 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.

P: Lord, Jesus, we doubt even though You have won the complete victory for us on Easter. Send Your Holy Spirit to move us in Your Word so that we believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God and have life in Your name.

C: Amen.

Hymn: “O Sons and Daughters of the King”- Hymn #470, vs. 8-9

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.

Reading from the Book of Acts: Acts 5:12–20

R: Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 1:4–18

R: John to the seven churches that are in Asia: 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 from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn: “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen” - Hymn #474

Sermon: “Got Milk?” - 1 Peter 2:2-3

During the 1990’s the American dairy industry began a hugely popular ad campaign to encourage people to drink more milk. It featured smiling celebrities, like athletes, models, movie stars, and singers sporting milk mustaches and the tagline, “Got milk?” Britney Spears, Beyoncé, Venus and Serena Williams, Tom Brady, and Brett Favre, Kate Moss, and even Bart Simpson all lined up for a glass of milk. It became one of the most successful advertising campaigns of the last 30 years and spawned hundreds of parodies.

Despite the popularity of the ads, the amount of milk people drank only went up a little, and has steadily declined since. Over the last few decades, the health value of milk has gone up and down. It’s full of calcium and does a body good, but it can be full of fat. But maybe it’s the right kind of fat, the good kind of fat, that can be healthy. But people object to how dairy operations are run, they seek plant-based alternatives. There’s a movement to allow

unpasteurized milk, claiming it's more natural, ignoring the potential for infections. Now, we don't always think that milk does a body good.

For almost 2,000 years the Sunday after Easter was known as Quasimodogeniti Sunday, and then some liturgical scholar determined at the end of the last century that this Sunday would be better named 'The Second Sunday of Easter.' Quasimodogeniti is a Latin word that means literally "as newborns." Due to the book's place in popular culture, many of you know the name Quasimodo from the novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, written in 1831 by Victor Hugo, or one of its film adaptations. In this book, a child is found abandoned on the steps of the famous Parisian cathedral on Quasimodogeniti Sunday. Subsequently, the child is given the name of the Sunday on which he was found.

Quasimodogeniti was the first word in the Introit for the Sunday after Easter, which we spoke this morning, "Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk...." "So, I guess that tells you that the words of this Introit have been around for a very long time. They are in fact the words of Peter in 1 Peter 2:2-3: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Quasimodogeniti...as newborns...Peter calls on us to crave spiritual milk because we have tasted that the Lord is good. How good is the Lord? Maundy Thursday good. Good Friday good. Easter good. How good is the Lord? Good enough to eat and drink. Good enough to die for us. Good enough to live for us.

Quasimodogeniti is seeking to put us in an Easter place. And then Monday came and Easter was over. So, what remains of Easter for us? The Introit gives us direction.

"Quasimodogeniti," "-- "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..." Easter is not an end but a beginning. We are reborn in Christ that we might live new lives. And when does Easter begin for me? When I was baptized into Christ and reborn to eternal life. And when does Easter end? Easter never ends!

And here's the point about Easter that is so easily missed. Easter is not only about our Lord's promise that he has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven...Easter is about today. Eternal life has already started. Easter is about how I live with you in the here and now and love you now. Easter is about craving the blessings of God so that I can grow up spiritually now.

"That by it you may grow up into salvation." To rest on "Jesus died for your sins and rose again" is saving Gospel but it's like skim when the Bible offers so much more nurture for growing Christians. How satisfying to taste that Jesus' Spirit is in the world, that He's exalted and ruling all things for the eternal well-being of His Church, and that He will be revealed in righteous judgment, fearful for many but for us who believe, our final salvation. Peter wrote to believers who trusted Jesus' death and resurrection, but their faith was also growing toward what is to come, "that by it you may grow up into salvation."

Throughout his letter, Peter is quoting scripture – in this case, Psalm 34 verse 8. ‘Taste and see’, says the psalmist, ‘that the Lord is good.’ Then, like a newborn baby who has tasted his mother’s milk, you will want more. And more. That is the controlling image of this section: the baby that has recently been born and now needs to feed, to grow and to learn to live within the family. Becoming a Christian is about the new life within us first coming to birth, then being nourished and sustained, then growing to maturity. That last stage is marked, as it should be for a growing child, with the discovery that there are good ways and bad ways of relating to those around you. You have to learn to choose the first and renounce the second.

When I first came to Ames, I led some internationals through a study called “Eight Bible Lessons for New Christians.” In the second lesson, we talked about the characteristics of God. One of the readings was from Revelation 4:8, when John has a vision of God’s throne room in heaven. While the question in the study focused in on the words of the angels, that God is holy and powerful and was and is and is to come, that reading always caused distraction. The description of the creatures surrounding God’s throne, with six wings and full of eyes, always caused us to go off track. The students were always more interested in discussing what those creatures were than their message.

It’s not that those questions aren’t important. It’s not that knowing and learning about the details of Bible passages isn’t important. But it can be easy to get distracted by the details away from what’s going on. We needed to focus on the milk first before getting into the solid food.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk. The milk is the Bible. The way the newborn baby craves milk is the way God wants you and me to crave the word of God. Why? Because that’s the way, Peter puts it, that’s the way we grow up in our salvation. What would happen to a baby if you brought the baby home and the baby was healthy and the baby was good and the baby was fine, but you never fed it? Would it grow? No. In fact, eventually it would die. It’s the same thing in our life of faith. “Crave pure spiritual milk,” God says. “Crave the Bible.” Why? Because God doesn’t want you and me to be spiritual infants. God doesn’t want you and me to be spiritual infants who can be blown back and forth by false teachings or could eventually lose our faith. “Crave pure spiritual milk so that you and I can keep on growing.”

Martin Luther said in his preface to the Large Catechism, “I am also a doctor and a preacher, just as learned and experienced as all of them who are so high and mighty. Nevertheless, each morning, and whenever else I have time, I do as a child who is being taught the catechism and I read and recite word for word the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism—and I also do so gladly.” He knew where the pure milk of God’s word was found, and continued to crave it.

Karl Barth, a famous German theologian, was at Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago during his lecture tour of the U.S. in 1962. After his lecture, during the Q & A time, a student asked Barth if he could summarize his whole life’s work in theology in a

sentence. Barth allegedly said something like “Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother’s knee: ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’”

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – since indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good” (1 Peter 2:2). There is a power in our heart stronger than the sins that want to show up on our lips, the Word of God that enables us to resist temptation. Because we long for our Lord’s pure spiritual Word to get down into our hearts, we go to church and listen, hear the word of God. We hear the promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation we have in the name of Jesus. We hear the words of hope we have because of what we just heard about last week, Jesus’ death and resurrection. We hear words of peace and love and joy.

My encouragement to you this first Sunday after Easter, Quasimodogeniti, is to be like newborn babies, to crave spiritual milk, “so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” Seek the Lord’s will for your life with sincerity and truth. God has things for us to do in his world and we cannot accomplish what he would have us do if we are still babies. We need to grow up...and that will happen when we know in our hearts that the Lord is good. Then his goodness can overflow in our lives with one another, our lives wherever God has placed us.

Third Article of Creed: pg. 323

Prayers: Prayer of the Church: (Based on John 20:19-31)

P: “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.’”

C: Lord Jesus, we would like proof. We want to be in charge of things and to have things we can understand and control. Like Thomas we can be stubborn.

P: “Eight days later, Jesus 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.’”

C: You appeared to the disciples and showed them You truly rose from the dead. You have triumphed over sin and death!

P: “Then Jesus 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.’”

C: We are thankful that You gave clear evidence to Thomas, but what about us? Why can’t You prove now to us and all others that You truly are the Son of God?

P: “Jesus said to Thomas, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

C: You are talking about us. No, we have not seen You as Thomas and the disciples did, but we can see You in a clearer way through Your Word, through our Baptisms, through Holy Communion, through fellowship with other Christians, and as You forgive us of our sins as You did at the beginning of this service. Your words do not mean:

“Blessed are you despite not seeing.” but they mean, “Blessed are those who have not seen,” those who rely not on evidence we can control, but on faith in You and Your promises.

P: “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.”

C: Give us the desire to get into Your Word which assures us that You are indeed risen!

P: (other concerns)

Send Your Holy Spirit into our lives so that we daily can join Thomas in saying,

C: “My Lord and my God!” Amen.

8:30 AM

Hymn: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”- Hymn #477

Lord’s Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

P: Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord’s resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia” - Hymn #463

Postlude

11 AM service continues.....

Sharing Our Ministry

Offering and Voluntary

P: When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

C: We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, so that we may turn from the darkness of doubt and disbelief, and may walk in the light of the Lord.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

P: Almighty and all-merciful God,

C: We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise. We have offended Your majesty and defied Your divinity; we have brought death and darkness where You once said, "Let there be light." We deserve the doom that You have decreed. We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise.

P: But Christ is risen.

C: Risen indeed!

P: Since we have been united with Him in a death like His,

C: we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. For His sake we implore you, O God, forgive our sins, and open our eyes to the reality of the resurrection. Let us be raised with Christ.

P: "Thus it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in His name." That word is now proclaimed to you.

C: We have seen the Lord! Alleluia!

Service of the Sacrament

Call to Holy Communion:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ showed Himself to His disciples risen from the dead. He came a week late to do that for Thomas. He now comes to us in His holy Supper so we can receive His true body and blood risen from the dead. We gather at His table in answer to His call to take and eat, and to drink. We join in His meal trusting that by it our sins are forgiven.

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:

The Words of Our Lord:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

"These Things Did Thomas Count as Real" - Hymn #472

"We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight" - Hymn #720

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

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: “*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia*” - **Hymn #463**

Postlude