

April 24, 2022
HYMNS FOR 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
LBW #132 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"
LBW #352 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"
LBW #135 "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29

R You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD. R**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

- ¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- ²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”
- ²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. R**
- ²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- ²⁵**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days! R**
- ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷**The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners
of the altar.**
- ²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever. R**

SECOND READING: Revelations 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John 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, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Renew your people’s commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Uphold your children who cry out to you (*especially*). Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise (*especially the music ministries of this congregation*). With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of grace and peace, we pray for the people Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Help and heal the wounded, receive the dying into your embrace, and comfort those who mourn. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

