Welcome to Bethany! As We Gather

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"

Greeting

- P This is the day the Lord has made,
- Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

In the name of the Father and of the → Son and of the Holy Spirit. ☐ Amen. Easter Acclamation P Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

- If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,
- **©** we lie and do not practice the truth.
- P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
- and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession and Absolution

- P If we say we have not sinned,
- we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your

Confession and Absolution

- P life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Silence for reflection.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought,

Confession and Absolution

word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Amen.

Hymn: LSB 467
"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

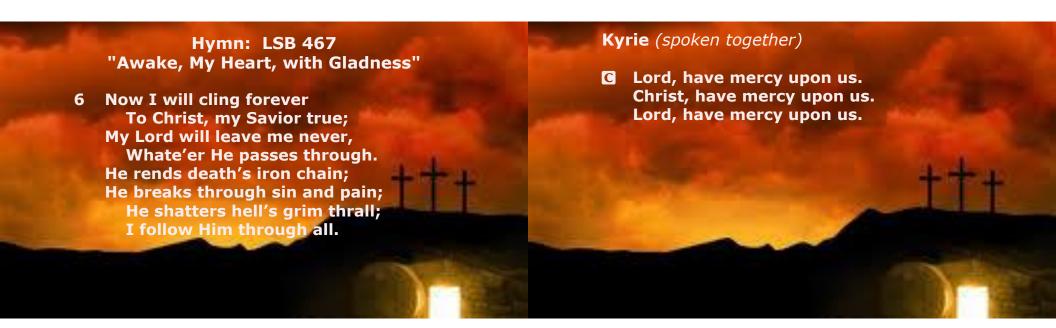
1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,
See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness,
Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light
Our spirit wings its flight.

Hymn: LSB 467 "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

3 This is a sight that gladdens—
What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son
In love for me has won.

Hymn: LSB 467
"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

5 The world against me rages,
 Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages,
 Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free,
No trouble troubles me.
 Misfortune now is play,
 And night is bright as day.





First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

33And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4:32-35

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2

L ¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John 1:1-2:2

L 5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his

1 John 1:1-2:2

I word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Verse (spoken responsively)

- P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.
- Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

19On 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." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am

John 20:19-31

sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 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."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside

John 20:19-31

again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written

John 20:19-31

in this book; ³¹but 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.
- **©** Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: LSB 470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

1 O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing, Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Hymn of the Day: LSB 470 "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

An angel clad in white they see,
Who sits and speaks unto the three,
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn of the Day: LSB 470
"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia, alleluia!

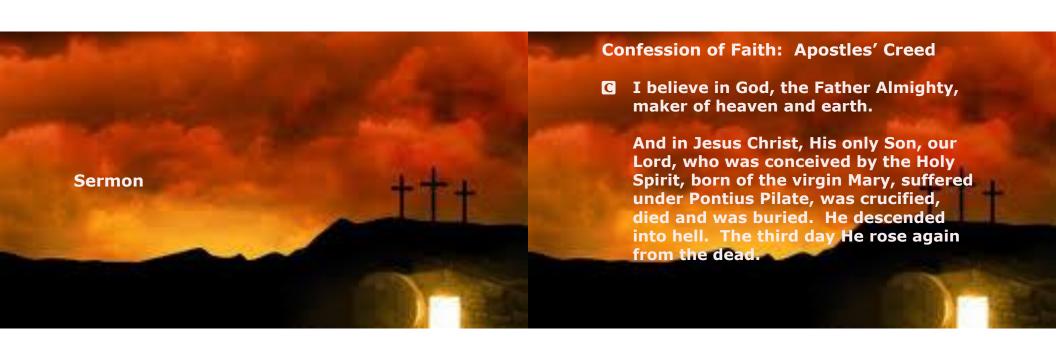
6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

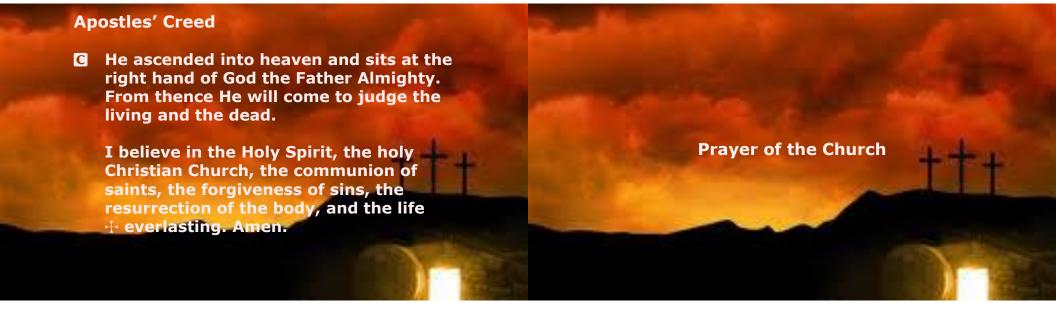
Hymn of the Day: LSB 470
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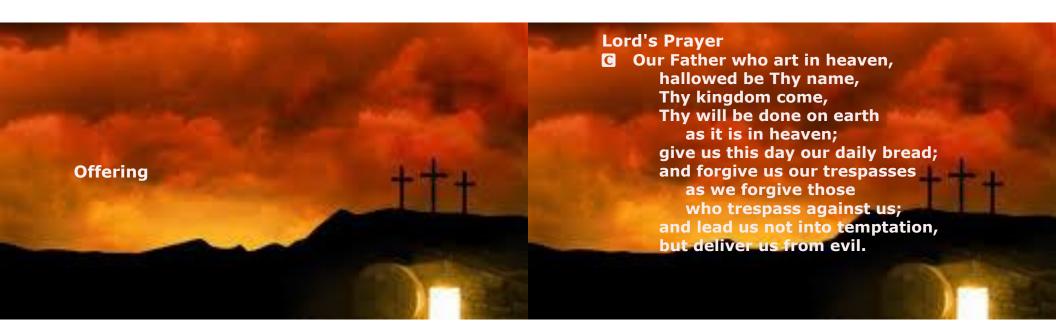
7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia!

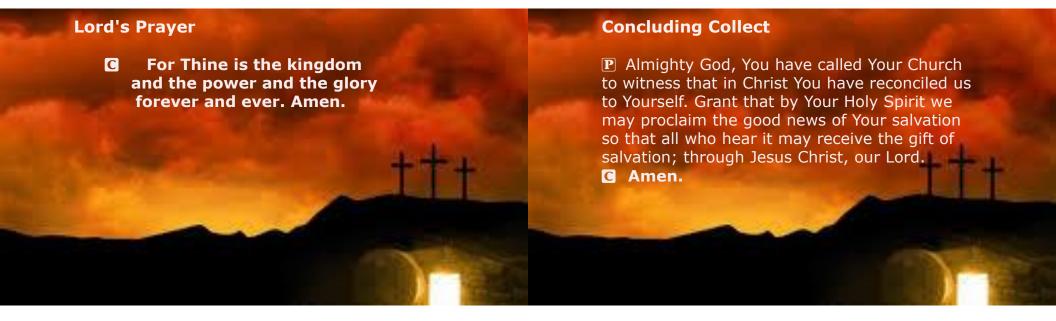
8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



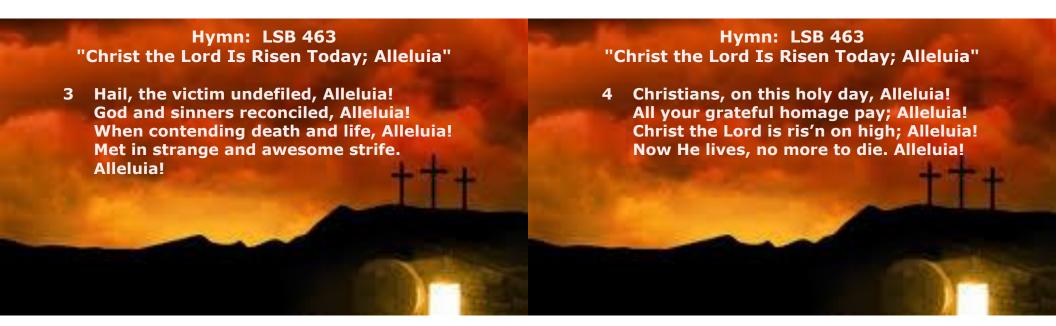












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