

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand if you are able) **ALLELUIA and VERSE:** page 156 *(sung)*

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

John 20:19-31

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: *(sung)* Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ. *(please be seated)***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SONG:

Heavenly Father, we come to praise You, and to say thank You here in our song,

For all the gifts You give through Your kindness, Showing Your love, forgiving our wrong.

Jesus, our Savior, we love and follow, For all the blessings You died to share;

Life and salvation we have forever, Trusting Your mercy, knowing Your care.

Comforting Spirit, move us to worship, Showing Christ’s love in all that we do.

Help us to serve our brothers and sisters, Knowing the off’rings given to You.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 472 “These Things Did Thomas Count as Real”

SERMON: “The Acts of Easter: Raised, Exalted, Given” Acts 5:29-32

(please stand if you are able)

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed: page 159

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition ends “Lord, in Your mercy” and we respond, “hear our prayer.”)

HEALING AND COMFORT: Nina Guebert, C. John Prigge, Fred Buch, Joan Prigge, Omar Koester, Darlene Lohman, Larry Ehlers, Carol Turner, Kathy Liefer, Peggy Sitzes, Jackie Quintin, Molly Ellner; *Family and Friends of St. John’s Members:* Brenda Manning, Stephanie Jones, Debbie Kezely, Terry Heller, Steve Herriman, Lori Voges, Elaine Goetting, Harlan Burmester, Brian Ulione, Larry Berg, Joyce Wirth, Marianne Hunt, Jamie Brandt, Jennifer Dominique, Corey Koester, Tom Blevins, Edgar Wilson, Bobby Wood, Melvin Juelfs, Eric Frazier. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: (Please call with the names to include in prayer.) Army- Nathan Koen, Jonathan Koen, Tim Healy, Christopher Dupertius, Thomas Goetting, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Casey Vallet, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Dustin Krack, Andy Pfeiffer, Austin Scheibe; Navy- Brad Koester, Carl Muehler; Air Force- Brian Hubbard, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich, Christina Cavan, Tanner Hackstadt, Ched Wagner, Ted Knop; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Courtney Kueker, Garrett Carnahan, Brent Knop

+those receiving their pastoral calls and vicarage assignments from our seminaries this week

(please be seated) **OFFERING:** “We Come to Praise You” *arranged by Brock W. Downward*

(please stand if you are able) **OFFERTORY:** pages 159-160

THE LORD’S PRAYER, CLOSING PRAYER and BENEDICTION: page 166

CLOSING HYMN: 470 “O Sons and Daughters of the King” *(stanzas 6-9)*

THE POSTLUDE: “To God Be the Glory”

arranged by Edward Broughton

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Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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