



# Celebrate

Second Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2020

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

## Prayer of the Day

---

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

---

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>22</sup>“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I  
will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and  
my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul  
to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience  
corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the  
ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness  
with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you  
confidently of our ancestor David that  
he both died and was buried, and his  
tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was  
a prophet, he knew that God had sworn  
with an oath to him that he would put  
one of his descendants on his throne.

<sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the  
resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience  
corruption.’

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that  
all of us are witnesses.”



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

Protect me, O God, for I take ref-<sup>l</sup>uge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a-<sup>l</sup>bove all other."

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are<sup>l</sup> in the land,  
upon those who are noble a-<sup>l</sup>mong the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after<sup>l</sup> other gods  
shall have their troubles<sup>l</sup> multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings<sup>l</sup> to such gods,  
never take their names up-<sup>l</sup>on my lips. R**

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion<sup>l</sup> and my cup;  
it is you who up-<sup>l</sup>hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a<sup>l</sup> pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a<sup>l</sup> rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who<sup>l</sup> gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night<sup>l</sup> after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD al-<sup>l</sup>ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall<sup>l</sup> not be shaken. R**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-<sup>l</sup>it rejoices;  
my body also shall<sup>l</sup> rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me<sup>l</sup> to the grave,  
nor let your holy one<sup>l</sup> see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the<sup>l</sup> path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for-<sup>l</sup>evermore. R

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer

various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel

## John 20:19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

When 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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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

---

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. (*Here other worldwide ministries may be named.*) Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith (*especially Olavus Petri and Laurentius Petri, renewers of the church*). Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

---

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 114. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109) 1 Corinthians 15:19-28. **Wednesday** Matthew 12:38-42. **Thursday** (commemoration of Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960) Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19. **Friday** Isaiah 26:1-4. **Saturday** (Mark, Evangelist) Mark 1:1-15. **Third Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.

---

CELEBRATE April 19, 2020

Volume 51, Number 2

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Mark Sedio. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A.

CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.