

Following Jesus  
**“Believing Jesus”**

April 16, 2023

**As We Gather**

As Jesus appeared to various people after His resurrection His followers struggled to believe He was alive - especially Thomas. In an act of pure grace Jesus made a believer out of Thomas as He personally appeared to him. What is a believer? What must a believer believe? How is a believer to live? As followers of Jesus, how do we live as believers by faith and not by sight?

**Welcome**

**+ Gathering +**

**“O Sons and Daughters of the King”      LSB 470 st. 1-8**

1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave hath lost its sting!  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

2 That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

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

4 That night the Apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said: "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

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

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

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

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

**Invocation**

**Confession and Absolution**

1 He’s risen, He’s risen,  
Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death’s prison,  
The incarnate, true Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven,  
In jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain  
Their praises prolong.

2 The foe was triumphant  
When on Calvary  
The Lord of creation  
Was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan’s domain  
Did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain,  
Whom the evil ones fear.

3 But short was their triumph;  
The Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan  
He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord

Lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives,  
And will nevermore die.

4 O, where is Your sting, death?  
We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open  
Is fair Eden’s door.  
For all our transgressions  
His blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven,  
We now are His own.

***(Please rise)***

5 Then sing Your hosannas  
And raise Your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings  
That all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit  
He ever shall reign.

**Prayer**

**Children’s Church**

**+ Service of the Word +**

**First Reading: Acts 5:29-42**

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. <sup>36</sup>Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. <sup>38</sup>Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave

these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

<sup>40</sup> His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples 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 nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

### **The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon**

**"Believing Jesus"**

**Offering**

### **"These Things Did Thomas Count as Real" LSB 472**

1 These things did Thomas count as real:

The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,  
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,  
The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

2 The vision of his skeptic mind  
Was keen enough to make him blind  
To any unexpected act  
Too large for his small world of fact.

3 His reasoned certainties denied  
That one could live when one had died,  
Until his fingers read like Braille  
The markings of the spear and nail.

4 May we, O God, by grace believe  
And thus the risen Christ receive,  
Whose raw, imprinted palms reached out  
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

## Prayers

*Please add your prayer requests to the chat.*

### Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### St. John's People and Families

Lenora Balsiger  
Pastor Mark & Anne Heine, Dylan & Travis Goodrich  
Martin, Eva, & CarlJohn Meissenhalter, Kenneth & Eva  
Van Houten  
Matthew, Libby, Anthony, Isabella, & Abigail Munoz  
Lewis & Teresa Yeh  
Silvio, Natalie, & Giovanni Bettinelli  
Damien, Nicole, & Fiona Galford  
Nate, Alexandra, & Colette Heydorff  
Fabrice, Paula, & Marco Moschetti  
Cardiff, Jennifer, & Emma Scott-Robinson

### Benediction

#### "The Day of Resurrection" LSB 478

1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out  
abroad,  
The passover of gladness,  
The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From sins dominion free,  
Our Christ hath brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light;  
And, list'ning to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph  
And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
Their notes in gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen,  
Our joy that hath no end!

#### (Please Rise)

4 All praise to God the Father,  
All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory  
Ascribe to God alone!

**Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

**Memory Verse for This Week**

<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9

**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher	Rev. Mark G. Heine
Lay Reader	Brett Carey, Ruth Peterson
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Worship Preparation Team	Gerry & Midge Schneider, Jan Newton, Ron Irwin
Ushers	Penni Cremen, Sal Pagano
Projection Technician	Dawn Wahlers
Children's Church	Tyler & Michelle Roberts