

# Easter C's: Confirmation, Comfort, Commission, Courage

April 7, 2024

## As We Gather

This year, Easter (March 31) almost fell on April Fools' Day (April 1). This happened most recently in 1956, and will reoccur in 2029. Yet there is nothing about Easter that is meant to play a trick on us. We are not fools for believing. Christ is risen from the dead. His physical resurrection was confirmed by many witnesses at many times, and many at the same time. Many so-called "facts of history" have been accepted as true with far less evidence. Yet it is the Spirit of Christ that ultimately convinces us that the testimony of men (and of angels) is truth. "No one can say that Jesus Christ is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:3)

This Sunday we will focus on Jesus' appearance to the disciples in the Upper Room on that first Easter evening, and will concentrate on Jesus' powerful and convincing words spoken to them on that occasion. We will do so under the theme of "The Four Easter C's: Confirmation, Comfort, Commission, Courage."

## Welcome

+ Gathering +

### "O Sons and Daughters of the King" LSB 470

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!

9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## The Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, 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.**

Pastor: 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### “ This Joyful Eastertide” LSB 482

1 This joyful Eastertide

Away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified,

Has sprung to life this morrow:

#### Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,

Not burst His three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain;

But now has Christ arisen,

arisen, arisen;

But now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill

Since Jesus crossed the river;

Lover of souls, from ill

My passing soul deliver: **[Refrain]**

3 My flesh in hope shall rest

And for a season slumber

Till trump from east to west

Shall wake the dead in number: **[Refrain]**

## Prayer

### Children's Church

#### + Service of the Word +

#### First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Psalm 148 (Read responsively)**

**Reader:** Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

**People:** **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

**Reader:** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

**People:** **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.**

**Reader:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,

**People:** **and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

**Reader:** Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

**People:** **lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,**

**Reader:** you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

**People:** **wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,**

**Reader:** kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

**People:** **young men and women, old men and children.**

**Reader:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**People:** **And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.**

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We write this to make our joy complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>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, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Holy 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**

***"Easter C's: Confirmation, Comfort, Commission, Courage"***

**Offering**

## **“The Goodness of Jesus”**

1 Come you weary heart now to Jesus  
Come you anxious soul now and see  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

2 Come find what this world cannot offer  
Come and find your joy here complete  
Taste the living water never thirst again  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

### **Chorus**

Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus  
Satisfied he is all that I need  
May it be come what may that I rest all my days  
In the goodness of Jesus

3 Come and find your hope now in Jesus  
He is all he said he would be  
Grace is overflowing from the Savior’s heart  
Rest here in His wondrous peace

## **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.**

### **Benediction**

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
to a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

### **Chorus**

Praise the Father praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one

### **“King of Kings”**

God of Glory majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings  
To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died **Chorus**

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are re - stored

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me **Chorus**  
  
Praise forever to the King of kings

### 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

“Have you believed because you have seen Me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?”

*John 20:29*

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Sharon Cornelius
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Projector Tech	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Children's Church Leaders	Sarah Santora, Nina Montes, Debbie Kirkpatrick, Pam Watkins
Ushers	The De Young Family
Worship Band	Pastor Mike & Teresa Schmid, Steve & Judi Rock, Heidi Newman

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