

2nd Sunday of Easter

4/19/2020

J.V.Trautwein

Celebrate (Introduction): “In today’s gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amidst doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal (now in spirit), 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.”

Opening Hymn: [“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”](#)

Psalm 16

Keep me safe, my God,

for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;

apart from you I have no good thing.”

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,

“They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.

I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods

or take up their names on my lips.

⁵ Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;

you make my lot secure.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

surely I have a delightful inheritance.

⁷ I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;

even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

nor will you let your faithful[Ⓜ] one see decay.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Hymn of Praise: [“Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness”](#)

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.

1st Reading: [Acts: 2:14a, 22-32](#) “But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd].”

2nd Reading [1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

The Gospel [John 20:19-31](#)

Hymn of the Day: [“Breathe On me Breath of God”](#)

The Message ([Video Link](#))

Although the past few days have seemed more winter like than spring, we are in the midst of the time of the year during which new life is springing forth all around us. During the long months of winter we longed for spring to arrive and now here it is dressed in all its splendor.

Although we may be limited by the fear of a deadly virus encompassing us during these anticipated months, we can still be thankful for the beauty of new life around us. It is this new life which gives us the hope that when the pandemic is over the trials and anxiety which we may have suffered will bring even greater joy to be able to live in the creation which we so often take for granted.

During spring, 2,000 years ago, the disciples and followers of Jesus also experienced fear and anxiety following the crucifixion. They knew that being associated with Jesus they too could face charges of blasphemy and insurrection with the real possibility of the death penalty. Their fear and anxiety lead them into hiding and being extremely cautious while in public. This was especially true immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. Would someone recognize them and report them to the authorities? Fear is what drove them to meet in secret behind locked doors. This was not what they anticipated the new life of spring would be like.

We are told the evening of the first day of that week they meet behind locked doors in fear of the Jews. It was at this time that although the threat upon their lives was still real, they found that hope would overcome fear. This was because the resurrected Jesus appeared to them giving them the hope in the promise of a new life beyond the fearful circumstances facing them. His appearance gave them not only hope of a new life ahead but what it would mean to their new lives. Their new lives would be reinforced by the power of God’s presence. He said to them “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

The disciple now knew what was in their future – a new life which would extend the love of God to the world in which they lived. In spite of the dangers they faced they now had the hope and promise of God’s eternal presence with them through the resurrected Lord. This was a time for rejoicing for they now could begin to understand what they had been taught over those short years with Jesus.

In the coming days and years their rejoicing would be sorely tested as they lived the mission of this new life. History reveals to us what happened to these early Christians. They were persecuted and even executed for living this new life. But through it all they were able to endure fear, anxiety, isolation, and even death because their hope was in the promise of a new eternal life through the resurrected Christ.

Peter reinforced this promise when he wrote, “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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 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.” This is the message of Easter – the empty tomb.

Peter continues with a message which seems to be directly written for us at this time. “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 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.” Yes, the trials we are enduring at this time can be turned into a positive time in our lives. By having our faith being tested now, we can be strengthened to live the hope of new life in the message of God’s love. This will lead us to an even greater life in the future. This was confirmed by Thomas whose faith was tested but by experiencing the risen Christ he found a new life of unwavering faith.

Through these seemingly dark days of trial take time to listen to Peter’s words of hope, “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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

With this hope we can rejoice with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

The Anthem: [“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Dragon school Oxford](#)

“Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You
Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul
Make me a channel of Your peace
It is pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life
Oh Master, grant that I..."

The Offering*

"We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee."

The Prayer:

God of comfort and peace, today's uncertainty brings anxiety and loneliness to many who have to live in isolation from their normal lives. Give us the patience, understanding and strength to live through the darkness we may experience. Open our lives to the newness of life throughout your creation during this season. May we see the hope in our continual celebration of the resurrection of you Son. Continue to give strength and well-being to those who are caring for the sick who are infected with this dreaded disease as well as to those who are delivering life's essentials to meet our physical needs. Where it is possible may we extend the love you have shown us through the life and message of Jesus.

Reach out and touch us with your blessing, We especially seek healing and comfort for , Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering fear anxiety, pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic. Be especially near to Al Honey and surround him with your special healing and comforting presence.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen
The Lord's Prayer

.The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["I know That My Redeemer Lives"](#)

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Road

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church

9122 Sybert Driveb

Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

[http://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org/who we are.html](http://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org/who_we_are.html):