

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod 335 West Prairie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982

Pastor Steven Tews

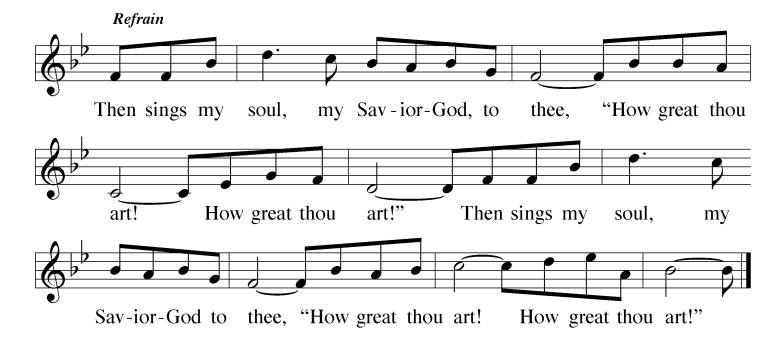
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Service of the Word



In the face of doubt, Christ gives us proof and peace. "Peace be with you," said our Lord. Then he sent his people forth with this message of peace based on the proof of his resurrection.





Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989. © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. U.S. print rights admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART (11 10 11 10 with Refrain) Swedish folk tune. © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. U.S. print rights admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

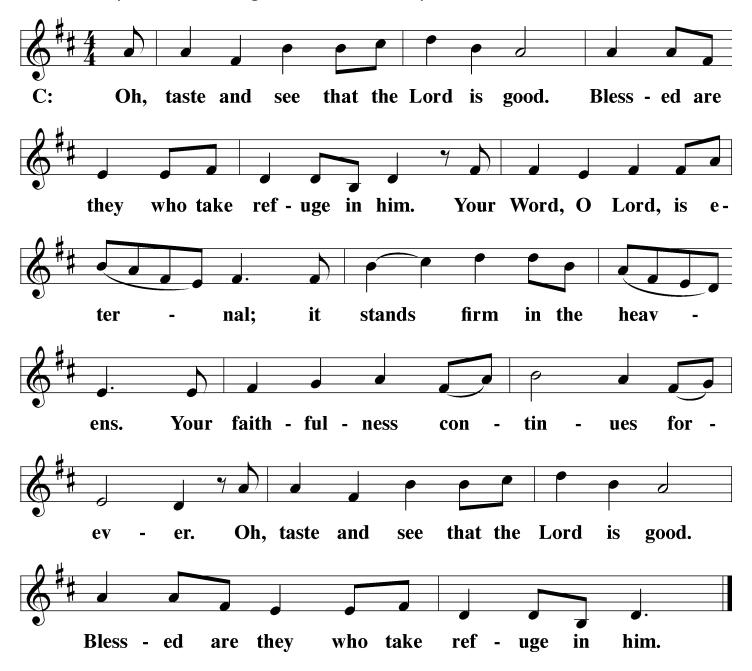
C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M:In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43

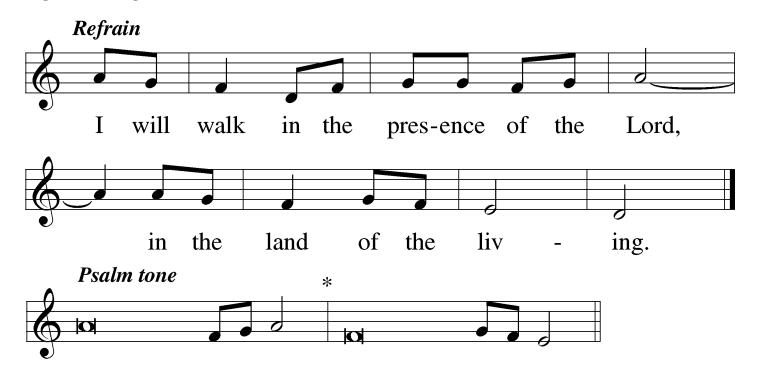
God had made his disciples both apostles and witnesses of the resurrection so that they could provide proof for the Gentiles.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak,

"He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹ "Indeed, we are witnesses of all the things he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, yet they killed him by hanging him on a cross. ⁴⁰ But God raised him on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹ not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had already chosen—by us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify solemnly that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that, through his name, everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins."

PSALM 16



Keep me <u>safe</u>, O God,* for in you I take <u>ref</u>uge.

I said to the LORD, "You <u>are</u> my Lord;* apart from you I have <u>no</u> good thing."

I have set the LORD always be<u>fore</u> me.*

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be <u>shaken</u>.

Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;* my body also will <u>rest</u> secure,

because you will not abandon me <u>to</u> the grave,* nor will you let your Holy One <u>see</u> decay.

You have made known to me the <u>path</u> of life;* you will fill me with joy in your <u>pres</u>ence.

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. Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-9

Grief and sorrow raise doubts about God's love and God's plan for our lives. Peter points us to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of our outward circumstances.

- ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.
- ⁶ Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b)

STAND



GOSPEL John 20:19-31

Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. In the face of all their doubts Jesus offered proof that he was alive and sin was dead.



¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

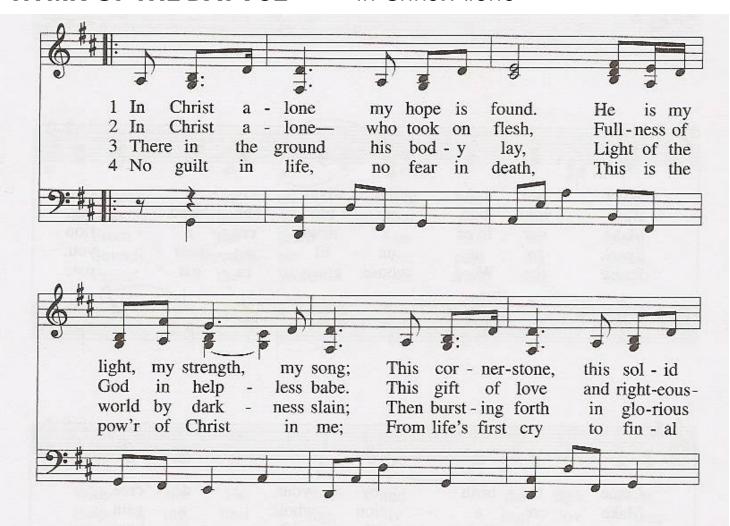
²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

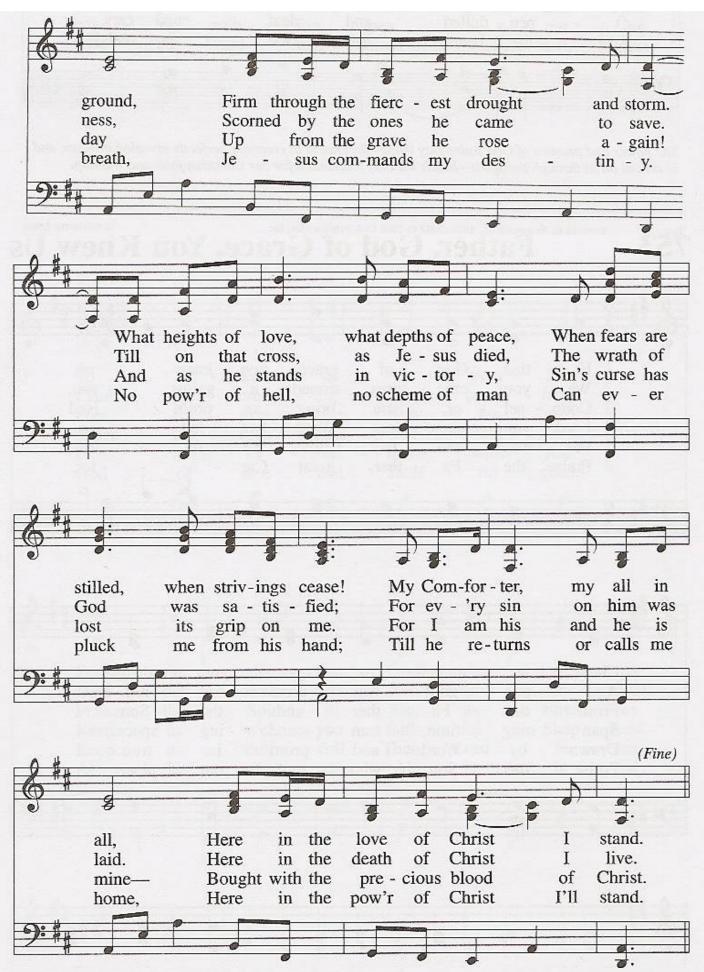
- ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- ³⁰ Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY 752 "In Christ Alone"





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SERMON

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.





THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

During this time of not meeting together physically, you can mail your offering to the church address or call Pastor to drop it off at church.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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.

BE SEATED



HYMN 538 "The Church's One Foundation"



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.

Tune: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76.

STAND

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

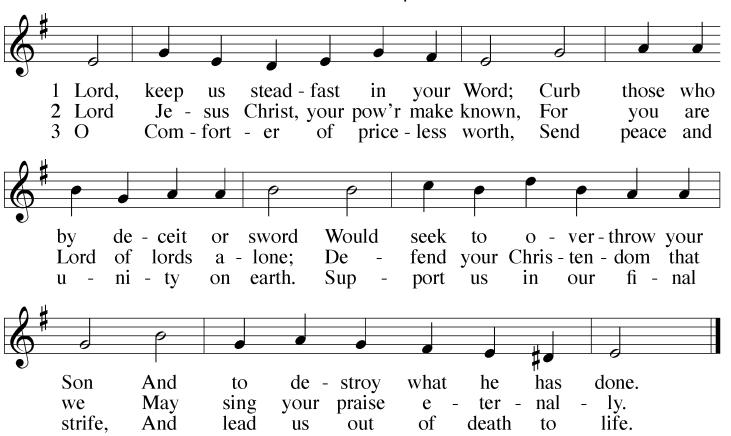
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.





CLOSING HYMN 203

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

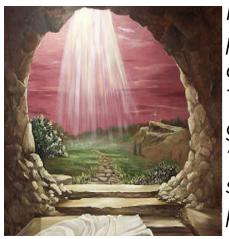
Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.



Christ Gives Us Peace and Proof

The Second Sunday of Easter

God's Word for Today



In the face of doubt, Christ gives us proof and peace. To the doubting disciples, he gave certain proof that led to certain peace. Through his Word and sacraments, Jesus gives the same proof to all people of all time. "Peace be with you," said our Lord. Then he sent his people forth with this message of peace based on the proof of his resurrection.

First Lesson (Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43)

1. How did new Christians receive the blessing of proof from Christ's Easter resurrection appearances?

Second Lesson (1 Peter 1:3-9)

2. What does Peter mean when he says we have a "living hope"? (v. 3)

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

- 3. What greater meaning did the common greeting, "Peace be with you!" take on when spoken by Jesus that first Easter evening?
- 4. What comfort was gained when Jesus showed the nail marks?
- 5. What did Thomas confess?

Answers:

- 1. The Gentile believers to whom Peter spoke had never seen the risen Lord. But Peter had; Peter had watched Jesus eat and drink; Peter had touched and felt his risen body. God had made his disciples both apostles and witnesses of the resurrection so that they could provide proof for the Gentiles. They were sent to give this proof and proclaim Christ's peace to these new Christians who fulfilled Jesus' promise to Thomas: they had not seen, but yet they believed.
- 2. A Christian's hope is a "living hope" because it is founded on Christ, our Savior, who has conquered sin and death, and has given us the sure promise of eternal life.
- 3. Peace was one thing the disciples did not have. They had questions, concerns, and doubts. Jesus was dead–killed on a Roman cross–and now fear held them in its icy grip. They lacked more than peace of mind; the disciples also lacked any peace of spirit. Shame hung heavy on their shoulders. Grief and guilt weighed down their hearts. They had great doubts about their Lord, their lives, their salvation. But then Jesus came and offered proof that he was alive and sin was dead. He showed them his nail-marked hands and riven side. These holy wounds are the proof positive that God is at peace with us.
- 4. It absolutely proves that he wasn't a ghost. The nail marks also were a visible reminder of the forgiveness that was theirs through Christ.
- 5. After having struggled with doubt earlier, he now boldly confessed that Jesus is the one true and eternal God. Thomas confessed that Jesus was indeed his gracious Savior. Jesus had overcome the doubt and unbelief of Thomas.

During these unprecedented times,
please call the church office at 920-787-3856
or email at peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com
with concerns, questions, and prayer requests.
We may not be physically in the office every day, but we are
still here for each of you.

Visit our website at www.wautomapeacelutheran.org or visit our Facebook page for updates and other information.

Things are changing at a very rapid pace and we will do our best to keep everyone informed of any changes to our cancellations.

