

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Home Devotional  
April 19, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter

**Psalm: Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!  
<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
For he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever;  
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist,  
stormy wind fulfilling his word!  
<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock,  
creeping things and flying birds!  
<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together,  
old men and children!  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his majesty is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his saints,  
for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

**First Reading: Acts 5:29–42**

<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to 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 enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

**Gospel Reading: John 20:19–31**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And 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 anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although 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, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.
- 2 We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry “My Lord and God!”
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.
- 4 For You, O resurrected Lord,  
Are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the Word,  
Beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.

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**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Acknowledgments**

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