



April 16, 2023 - 10:30 AM  
*Second Sunday of Easter*

## Gathering

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

L: Blessings to you, servants of God.

**P: We lift up our hands and bless the Lord!**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

*I Need Thee Every Hour* (Hymn #423)  
Dr. Craig Ralston

arr. Faye Lopez

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Call to Worship

L: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

*1 Pet. 1:3-9*

**P: God has given us a new birth in the living hope  
of the resurrection.**

L: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable  
and unfading.

**P: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.**

L: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;  
and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

**P: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.**

**(Please remain standing)**

Opening Hymn #236

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

**(Please be seated)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you have made known to us the ways of life.**

*Acts 2:28*

**Yet, too often, we put other things above you**

*Ps. 16:4*

**and turn away from the ways of life**

**and toward the ways of death.**

**Forgive us and guide us back into your presence,**

**that we may know the fullness of joy in you.**

*Ps. 16:11*

**(Silent Confession)**

L: Amen.

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETorex)

Declaration of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

**(Please be seated)**

Anthem

*Because He Lives*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

arr. Kevin McChesney

Katie Staudt, handbell solo

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

**(Please be seated)**

**The Word**

Reading of Scripture

*1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The Word of our Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

**(Please remain seated)**

Response Hymn #278

*I Live*

I LIVE

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

*John 20:19-31 (ESV)*

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.” 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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.”

26 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.” 27 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.” 28 Thomas answered

him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 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.

**L:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**P:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “Doubting Thomas – Heel or Hero?” Rev. Dr. Dan Storvick

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Hymn of the Day #268

*The Risen Christ*

THE RISEN CHRIST

Affirmation of Faith

**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 Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**(Please be seated)**

Prayers of Intercession, concluded with The Lord’s Prayer in unison:



## DOUBTING THOMAS—HEEL OR HERO?

John 20:19-31

### **C \_\_\_\_\_: He asked the unspoken questions of the others.**

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:3-6 (NIV)

(Thomas was like Phillip, of whom) Jesus said, "Here comes an honest man . . ." John 1:47 (NLT)

**Ponder This:** What are my unspoken questions for the Lord?

### **C \_\_\_\_\_: He was willing to speak his mind.**

<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." John 20:24-25 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

**Ponder This:** What hurts, hopes, hang-ups, sins and feelings do I need to confess or address with my Lord?

### **L \_\_\_\_\_: He stuck with the Lord through thick & thin.**

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." John 11:14-16 (NIV)

**Ponder This:** Would Jesus say he could count on me? What's my loyalty score?

### **H \_\_\_\_\_: He was willing to admit when he was wrong.**

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, <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!" John 20:26-28 (NIV)

**Ponder This:** What would I have said and done if I'd been Thomas?

### **F \_\_\_\_\_: He Faced and 'Faithed' His Doubts.**

<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." John 20:29 (NIV)

"I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24 (NRSV)

**Ponder This:** What does it take to shake my faith? What does it take to "make" my faith?

*Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.*

(Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*)

## **C \_\_\_\_\_: He was Willing to die for his Lord.**

*Let us also go, that we may die with him. John 11:14-16 (NIV)*

*If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. Luke 9:24 (NLT)*

**Ponder This:** How far will I go for my Lord? . . . in terms of comfort? Money? Convenience? Reputation? Attitudes/Prejudices? Time? Grace toward others?

## **Why?**

*<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 John 21:30-31 (ESV).*

*(Candor, Chutzpa, Loyalty, Humility, Faith, Courage)*

**\*\*\*A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BULLETIN IS AVAILABLE AT THE USHER'S TABLE.\*\*\***

## **Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church!**

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at [www.mountainreformed.org](http://www.mountainreformed.org) for more information about our church.

## **Prayer of Meditation**

Holy One, you have made known to me the ways of life and have promised to fill me with the gladness of your presence. Keep me mindful of your guidance and your promise as I worship this day, that my heart may be glad. Amen.

## **Become a Member of Mountain Reformed Church!**

Mountain Reformed Church is establishing a membership. All who are interested or desire to become a member of Mountain Reformed Church are encouraged to add your name to the sign-up sheet at the usher's table. This is a crucial and exciting step in the development and establishment of our congregation. **Please note that membership at another local congregation does not preclude you from also becoming a member of Mountain Reformed Church.** More details about membership will be coming soon!

## **Thank You for Making our Easter Celebration Possible!**

Thank you to all of you who made our Easter Celebration possible. We touched so many lives with the marvelous message that "He is Risen Indeed" through uplifting music and the spoken word. Your gifts to the music fund and the hard work of so many folks in preparation for this event made it possible.

## **Music Ministry**

Do you have a heart for worship and desire to glorify God through marvelous uplifting music? The Sanctuary Choir of Mountain Reformed Church is always seeking new members. If you are musically inclined and have the ability to read music, consider joining the choir! Please contact our minister of music, Ryan Gastonguay at [ryan@mountainreformed.org](mailto:ryan@mountainreformed.org) for more info.

## **Facility Fund**

We are growing! MRC is now looking for a semi-permanent location and we are creating a facility fund to support this effort. If you would like to contribute, please write “facility fund” on your offering envelope.

## **Pastor on Call**

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email [eugenegrimm@me.com](mailto:eugenegrimm@me.com) or call 928-925-6057.

## **MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email**

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or “This Week at Mountain Reformed Church” email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at [ryan@mountainreformed.org](mailto:ryan@mountainreformed.org). The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

## **MRC Name Badges**

If you would like an MRC name badge, please send your name as it should appear to Mary Bricker: [marybricker18@gmail.com](mailto:marybricker18@gmail.com) and she will have one made.

## **Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain**

If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: [lyndi@milehighlending.com](mailto:lyndi@milehighlending.com). You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085. If you are seeking prayer please email Lyndi your request directly or fill out a prayer request card (available at the usher’s table) and place in the offering plate.

**4/9/2023 Worship Attendance: 181**  
**Bank Balances as of 4/12/2023: \$49, 196**