

Easter 2

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter (Year B)

John’s gospel message for the Second Sunday of Easter is one that highlights faith in what is unseen. Thomas, who was absent when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, vowed not to believe in a risen Jesus unless he could see, touch, and speak to him in person. This is a common human response to things we cannot understand, and yet the very nature of faith is rooted in the act of believing without seeing.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 4:32–35

Common Ownership

Luke described the first century followers of Jesus as those who were committed to unity, a common purpose, mutual care, and bold, faithful proclamation of the good news concerning Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. This is a benchmark for all those of every time and place who claim to follow Jesus.

Psalm 148

Praise the Name of the Lord

All people and all creation are called to give praise to the one, true God – the God of Israel, who is the only one worthy of such praise.

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1–2:2

God is Light

The first letter of John opens with eloquent descriptions of Jesus as the light and life of the world which the author prays that the readers will experience. The passage concludes with an exhortation to live in truth and light by confessing our sins and receiving the mercy and grace of God through Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19–31

Peace Be With You

Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection offering them his peace, forgiveness, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Thomas, who was not present, had difficulty believing when the others told him of their encounter. Jesus appeared again with Thomas present and Thomas confessed him as Lord. The risen Christ promised blessing to those who believe without having seen.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- It’s worth mentioning to the worshipping community that our confession of sins comes from 1 John. Making this connection between the liturgy and the Scriptures is an important moment in the life of faith. Too often we grow up in the church, not recognizing where the liturgy comes from and therefore we do not have a proper regard for the Bible.
- It’s always a good idea to remind the faith community what the passing of the peace truly means.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14
Thine is the Glory	145	---	---	376	161	161
Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!	---	674	474	377	---	---
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing	144	---	---	288	---	---
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Lord of Light	405	---	---	688	---	---
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
We All Believe in One True God	374	---	953	411	---	---
Like the Golden Sun Ascending	---	---	---	---	156	156
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
Peace, I Give to You (CCLI# 222942)
A Thousand Hallelujahs (CCLI# 7190270)
Walk with You (CCLI# 7186478)
Glory (Let There Be Peace) (CCLI# 7071972)
What a Beautiful Name (CCLI# 7068424)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.